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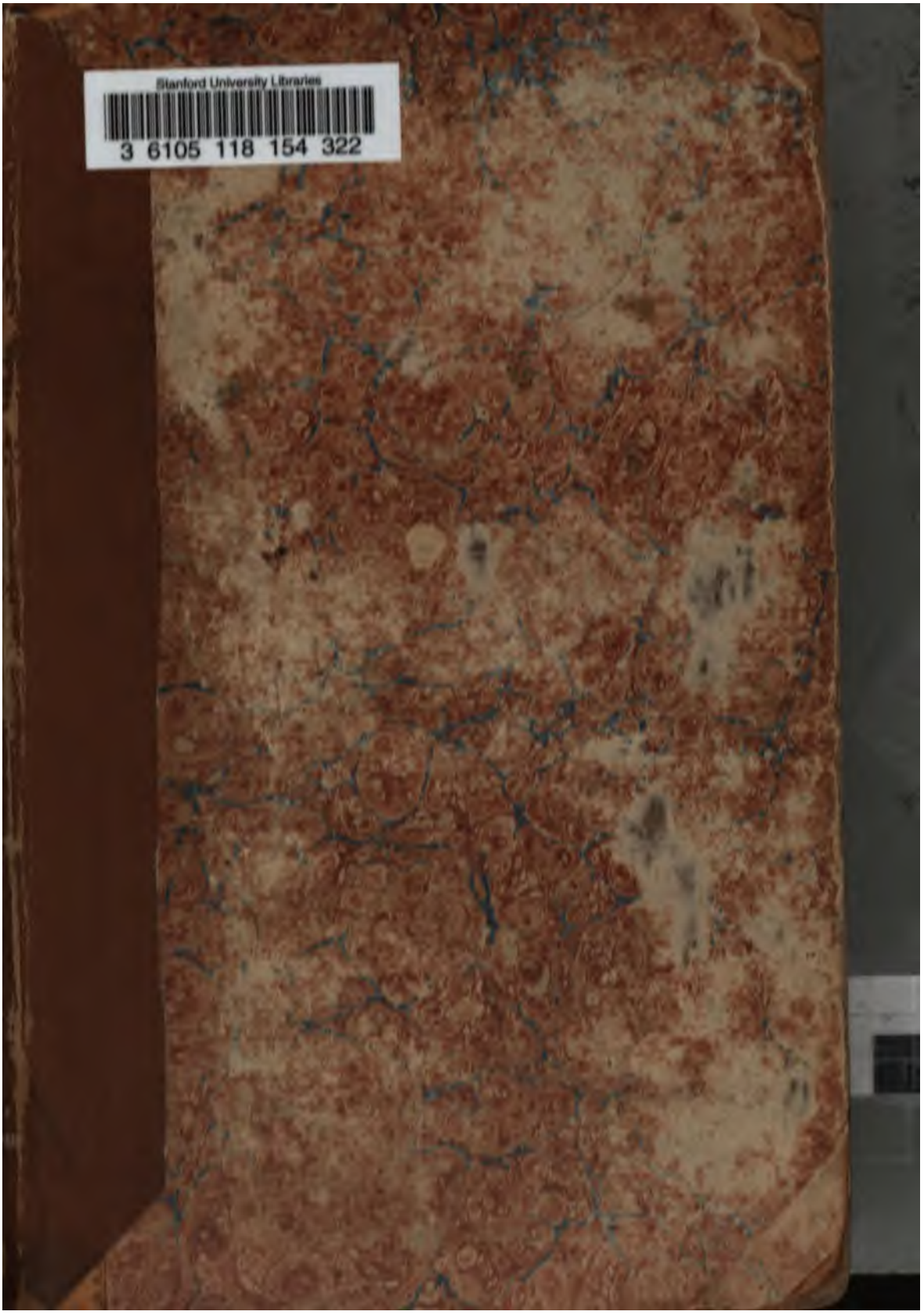
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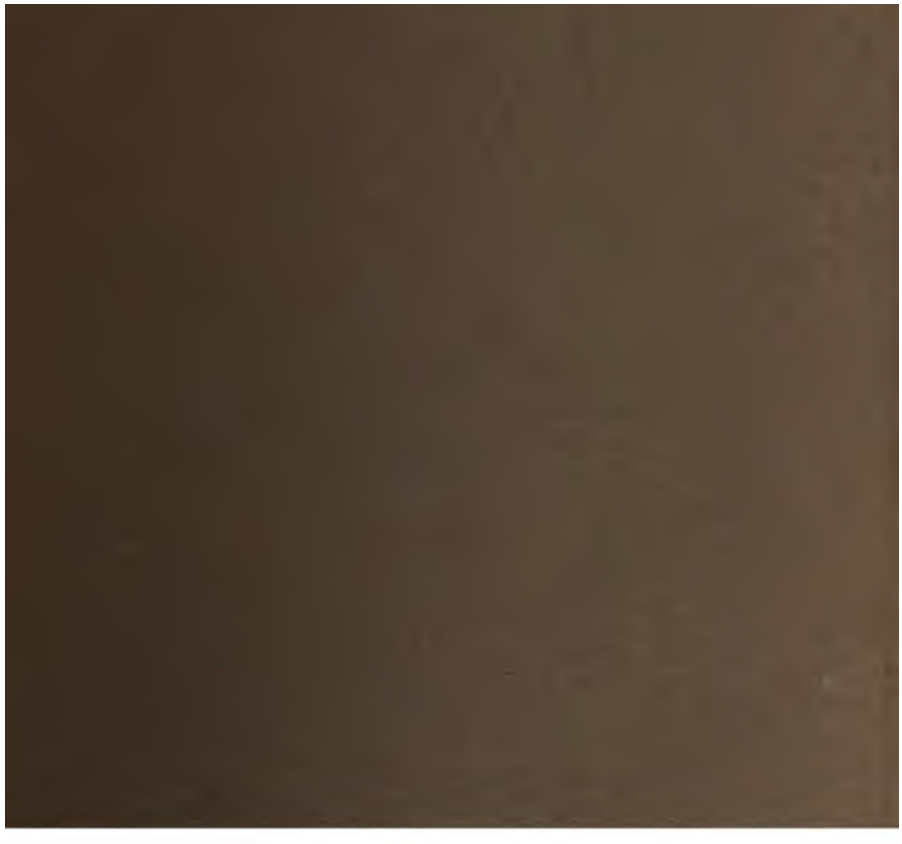

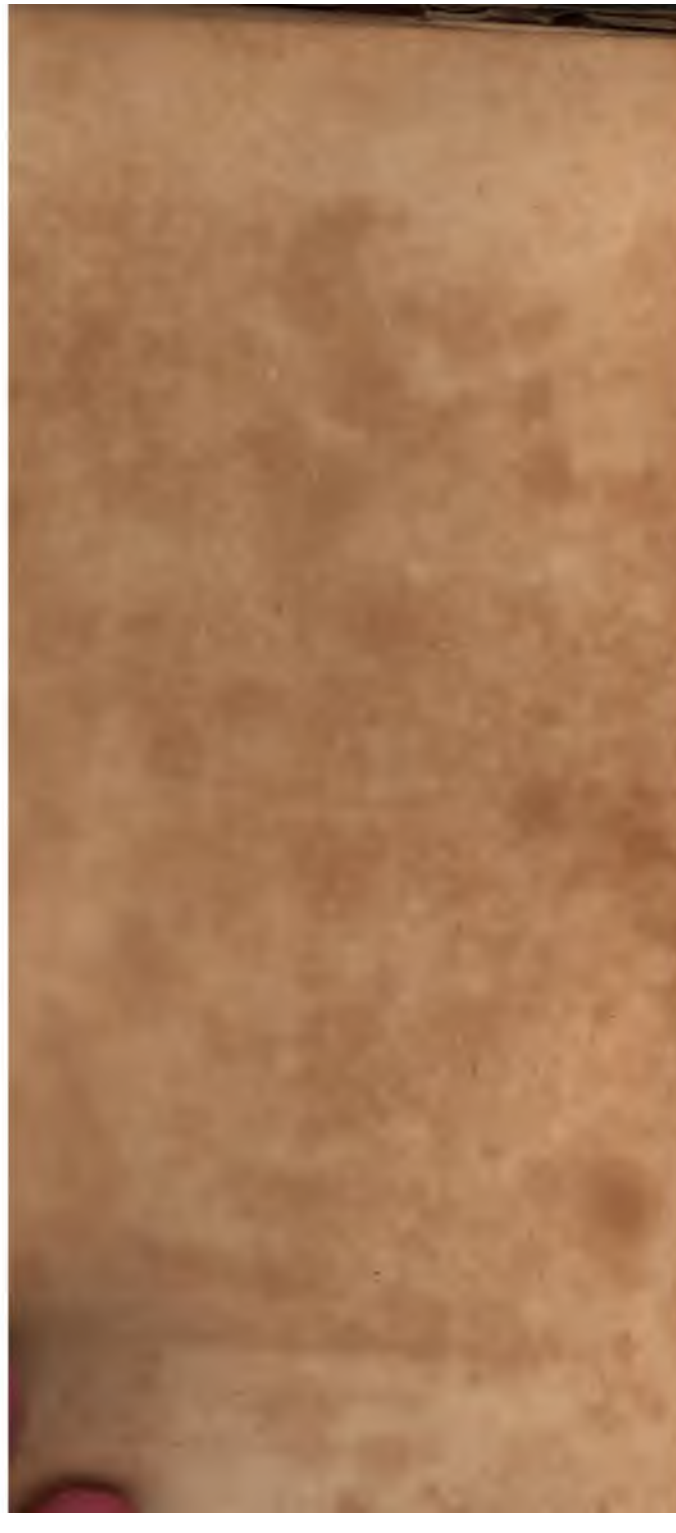

VALLE CRUSIS ABBEY
Denbighshire.

Proof

THE

Beauties

of

ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR

DELINEATIONS

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL and DESCRIPTIVE.

NORTH WALES.

Pulpit Hugh,
Lloyd Cynthal, Merionethshire.

Britton & Beauclerk

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales:

OR,

ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY

THE REV. J. EVANS.

VOL. XVII.—[redacted]

See the sun gleams; the living pastures rise,
After the nurture of the fallen shower,
How beautiful! how blue th' ethereal vault,
How verdurous the lawns, how clear the brooks!
Such noble warlike steeds, such herds of kine;
So sleek, so vast; such spacious flocks of sheep
Like flakes of gold illumining the green,
What other paradise adorn but thine,
Britannia! if thy sons would know their happiness.

DYER.

LONDON:

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TO

SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNNE, BART.

Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the Counties of Merioneth and Denbigh,

AND STEWARD OF BROMFIELD IN YALE;

THE PROMOTER OF THE WELFARE OF THE PRINCIPALITY,

BY THE

ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS, WITH OTHER AMELIORATING IMPROVEMENTS;

AND

BY FOSTERING GENIUS, PATRONIZING LITERATURE, AND EXTENDING THE SPHERE OF LIBERAL SCIENCE AND USEFUL ARTS:

THIS VOLUME,

CONTAINING HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATIONS

OF THE

SIX COUNTIES IN NORTH WALES,

AS A TESTIMONY OF GRATITUDE FOR MANY FAVOURS CONFERRED ON THE AUTHOR, IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

J. EVANS.

Delancey Place, Camden Town,
April 1, 1812.

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales.

CAMBRIA.

THE portion of the Island here delineated and described, is in a variety of views peculiarly interesting; whether the nature of the country, its prominent geographical features, rare productions, and picturesque scenery be considered; or the characteristics of the inhabitants, a people whose circumstances, actions, and fate, stand single, and unparalleled in the annals of the world. Wales, naturally prolific in multifarious substances conducive to the welfare of the arts, is of vast importance to trade; and from its maritime situation must eventually become equally so in a commercial respect. The varied face of the surface, diversified as it is with mountains and valleys, with woods, rivers, lakes and cataracts, is particularly inviting to the artist, or the amateur of nature; and the numerous vestiges of antiquity, which lead reflection back to the scenes, and transactions of remote periods, are calculated strongly to arrest the attention of the antiquary, and historian, to a country, long the asylum of freedom and religion; the residence of a nation which, from the earliest period of its existence, was distinguished by independency of spirit; for ages defended the rights of nature, and hurled defiance against the oppressors of mankind. Anti-

quaries have been divided in their opinions,* respecting the origin of the names, usually given to that portion of Britain, situated to the west of the rivers Severn and Dee. The derivation, however, of the former, is clearly deduced from the original inhabitants having been a tribe of the Celtæ or Gauls, known under the denomination of *Cimbri* and *Cymri*; whence the Romans, agreeable to the genius of their language, would call the country, inhabited by such people, in Latin, Cambria.† As to the latter term, which the Saxons appear to have applied to this territory, and also to Danmonium, which comprised Devonshire and Cornwall, the etymology is not so obviously manifest. It has been by some writers observed, that *Walsh*, in the northern languages of Europe, signifies a *stranger*, and the Britons being totally unlike their conquerors, in speech and customs were, from that dissimilarity, called *Welsh*, and their country, *Wales*. Others dissatisfied with this opinion, suppose from the apparent conformity in language and manners between these Britons and the Gauls, the Saxons gave them the same appellation. But the learned Sumner remarks upon this supposition, that the Saxon conquerors did not so designate them till they had expelled

* Giraldus says, Cambria was so called from Cumber, son of Brutus, but observes it is asserted by others, that the appellation was derived from *Cam* and *Graco*, that is, distorted Greek, on account of the affinity of their language, contracted by their long residence in Greece. The Saxons, when they seized upon Britain, called this nation, as they did all foreigners, *Wallons*. The Itinerary of Archbishop Baldwin, and other topographical works, relative to Wales; of Giraldus de Barri, commonly called Giraldus Cambrensis, translated by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. with the addition of valuable illustrative annotations and notes, and elucidatory plates, in two volumes, quarto. For the sake of brevity this work will be referred to under the title, Hoare's Giraldus.

† Thus among the Gauls, Diodorus mentions as two principal tribes, the Cimbri, and Si-Cambri, the Sigambri of Tacitus, the former inhabiting the peninsula of Jutland, and the latter seated near the river Rhine. And in the northern department of the French Empire, the city of Cambray on the Scheldt, the capital of the ancient Cambresis, or Cambria, retains the name, whence the fine linen, originally manufactured there, still goes under the appellation of *Cambric*.

pelled them beyond the Severn, that the Saxon verb *weallan* means to *wander*, and that by this denomination they intended to brand them as flying cowards, and therefore Wales is equivalent to a land of fugitives. A more modern antiquary, however, contends, that the name was applied to the Britons much earlier, than is stated by Mr. Sumner; for the Saxon chronicle mentions the Britons by the title of *Brit-walas*, or *Brit-walana*, and frequently speaks of the troops under Hengist and Ella, almost at the commencement of the war with the Britons as having routed the *Wealas*, *Wylishe*, or *Welsh* in Kent and Sussex. The denomination of the Britons among themselves, as well as neighbouring nations, was popularly *Gall* or *Wall*. This appellation, which extended over all the British isles and a considerable portion of the continent, has been frequently attempted to be explained by the philological critics both at home and abroad; but its meaning still remains veiled in obscurity. The genuine import of the word seems however sufficiently obvious to an attentive observer. "The Irish and Highlanders reciprocally denominate themselves by the general title of *Gael*, *Cael* or *Gauls*. But they also denominate themselves, and the Welsh originally called themselves, and still call both by the title of *Guidhyl*, *Guethel* and *Gathel*. And this appellation is the origin of the other. The intermediate Th being left quiescent in the pronunciation, Gathel is immediately formed into Gael, Gathel, Gael and Galath are all one and the same, varying appellation, and it signifies merely the woodlanders. Guyth-t and Guel-z import among the Irish, the Welsh, and the Amoricans, a man of the Guylh, Guel or wood; all of them the evident remains of the ancient Guidhil, or Guethel, a wood."* Whether this etymology be admitted to the full extent, or not, it will serve to demonstrate, that their origin was Celtic; and that their discriminating denomination was derived from the same source, as a colony from Gaul. It may be objected, there is a manifest difference between Gael, and Wael or Walt, whence Wallia, Wales

* Whitaker's History of Manchester, octavo Edit. Vol. II. p. 238.

and Welsh is derived; but to those acquainted with the British language, the affinity will be strikingly demonstrative; for by the genius of that, several of the consonants, from circumstances interchange, and m, b, f, v, and w, are considered versatile letters, and equivalent to the m of the northern and Latin tongues.* And this denomination of Wales which has almost been uniformly asserted by English writers to have been imposed upon the country by the Saxons, actually appears the acknowledged name of this region in the poetry of a Welsh bard, as early as the sixth century.

" Eu Ner a folant,
Eu hiaith a gadwant;
Eu tir a gollant,
And gwyllt *Wallia.*"

TALIESSIN.

Yet still their maker they shall praise,
And still their language yet preserve;
Although of country be deprived,
Except uncultured *Wales.*

The derivations of the Britons from the Gauls, Cæsar and Tacitus deduce from the vicinity of the two countries, and the similarity of manners and character; but a stronger argument is found in the national appellation of Gael and Gaul, equally assumed by both people. The great current of European population, obviously for centuries, took a direction to the west; and the British Isles were evidently replenished from the adjacent shores of Gaul. When the first migration happened, or what, previous to the Christian era, was the state of society in Britain, is referable to a general description of the Island. Who were the inhabitants of Cambria and what their national condition and character, at the period the Romans invaded this part of the country, are subjects for present consideration. It will appear, that the inhabitants of Wales were part of the aboriginal possessors, and whose numbers must have been greatly increased by

* Letter from Edward Lluyd to Henry Rowland in Mona Antiqua Restaurata, p. 305.

by those Britons, who, retreating before the victorious Romans, fled to this district, as a dernier resort to preserve their independence. After the invaders had secured the central part of Britain, by forming stations, and appointing garrisons, and given to it the name of *Britannia prima*; they then turned their attention to the reduction of the unconquered portion, lying west of the Severn. When Ostorius, the Roman general took a survey of this country, which he was sent with an army to subdue, he found it possessed by three tribes of people, denominated from their respective districts, *Ordovices*, *Silures*, and *Dimetæ*.

The *Ordovices* at the Roman invasion were in possession of all the country, comprised in the present North Wales, viz. the counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh, and Flint, except a small part of the latter adjacent to Bangor occupied by the Carnabii, and all those parts of Shropshire, situated to the south and west of the Severn. Camden attempts to derive their appellative distinction from the people having originally settled upon the river *Devi*, whence they were called oar-devi, in British signifying on the Devi, and thence Ordevices: as the Amoricans were so denominated from inhabiting the sea-coasts; the Averni, upon the river Avernus; and the Horesci on the banks of the Esk. But another and more probable etymology has been advanced by other writers. Bede mentions two British tribes under the names of the Huiccü, Wiccü, Vicü, and Vices; the one inhabiting Warwickshire, and Worcestershire, and having for their capital Brannogenium, the city of Worcester; and the other, the country to the northwest of it, from which circumstance, or the mountainous state of their country, they received the appellations of *Ard*, or *Ordovices*, that is the northern or upper vices.*

The *Silures*, possessed, according to Ptolemy, the district, at present comprising the counties of Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock,

* *Ard* in British, signifies high, lofty, and metaphorically honourable, and *vices*, a brave or fighting people. See Baxter's Glossary, under the word Iceni.

nock, Monmouth, and Glamorgan, and the small portion of Gloucestershire west of the Severn; and had for their capital Caer Gwent in Monmouthshire. The name of this tribe has been a subject of much antiquarian research, after all which, Camden confesses, he could find no derivation, that in the least corresponded with the nature of the people. The name by some has been derived from *sil*, aspicio, to look at, this people having been remarkable for their bold countenance. And in this work* the etymology has been sought in *Esyllwg*, a term implying an open country of downs, abounding with prospects; hence its inhabitants were denominated *Gwyr Esyllwg*, *Gwyr Esyllyr*, &c. &c. from their derivatives *Syllyrwys*. Mr. Lewis Morris, however, more probably derived it from Islwyr, a term imparting lowlanders, in respect to the highlanders, the Ordovices, which latter name he observed comes from Arddyfeich, i. e. inhabitants north of the river Dyfi.

The *Dimetæ* were situated west of the Silures, and their country in British called *Difed*† whence is evidently derived the Roman appellation; the Latins frequently softening the f, or v, into m, in words they adopted from that language. They possessed the country at present including the counties of Cardigan, Pembroke, and Carmarthen. Some writers have comprehended this district under that of the Silures; but Ptolemy places here a people, whom he denominated Dimetæ; and both Gildas and Nennius, early British writers, designate and describe the country under the name of Dimetia.

Such were the inhabitants of Wales, when the Romans first entered it with an hostile army. Respecting the condition or state of these Britons at the period in question, there has been a great discrepancy of opinion among the most learned of our writers. Some without possessing that impartiality, which should

* For this, and a more particular account of the tribe, see the The Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 401.

† The derivation, given by Camden from *Deben-Meath*, i. e. the plain to the south, shows how little that great antiquary was acquainted with the genius, of the language, or the distinguishing features of this country.

should ever accompany the inquirer after truth, and in despite of the most unexceptionable authorities, treat these people as naked, illiterate, wretched savages, destitute of clothes, and without any shelter from the inclemency of the weather, but what they found in miserably constructed hovels or hollow trees; fierce by nature, rude in their manners, unacquainted with the arts, and at a vast distance from civilization. Others, following the British history, describe them as a martial, potent, learned, flourishing, and trading nation, well known in other countries by their commercial and military relations; as a people who possessed a foreign trade, equipped large fleets, sent out powerful armies, and atchieved numerous conquests abroad; and at home erected stately edifices, founded large cities, and instituted seminaries of learning, so as to obtain respect from surrounding nations. This may and probably is a picture possessing too little that is real in its general outline, not sufficiently accurate in its figures, and far too high and glowing in the colouring. But waving the testimony of authorities, which in some respects may be considered doubtful, and adopting as guides, reason and experience; it will be readily discerned, that these ancient Britons need not be degraded into absolute savages, merely because the Romans, in imitation of the Greeks, chose to give, as they did to all strangers, the contemptuous name of *barbarians*. There can be no doubt but they brought with them the knowledge of the arts and sciences to whatever extent they were possessed by the parent country, at the time of their emigration. And these they must have had abundance of opportunities of exercising in a country, the state of which could administer little to their subsistence or comfort, without the application of both labour and skill.

When visited by the Romans, they had a religion remarkable for its numerous ceremonies, an order of priests, and places set apart for public worship. They possessed an established government, consisting of a princely aristocracy, united, in times of danger, under one head. Their militia were composed of

regular and well disciplined troops, divided into charioteers, cavalry and infantry, and their horses were admirably trained for the purposes of war.

With respect to their vast naval power, though attempted to be established by the learned Selden, considerable objective doubts may be urged, founded upon authentic documents. As to small vessels, which does not exclude the probability of their having others of larger dimensions, Cæsar bears ample testimony to the ingenuity of their construction, and their great convenience; and acknowledges himself indebted to the Britons for several useful improvements in the Roman navy. The facility with which these instruments of aquatic conveyance were made, and their peculiar portability has occasioned a continuance of their use, and *corracles* still form the fishing boats, which ply on the rivers of Wales.

They seem also to have understood rural economy for their keepers of cattle having a distinct appellation, evinces that numbers of others were occupied in the labours of the field. In consequence of which they appear to have had sufficient corn for their own support, and their pastures were abundantly stocked with cattle, sheep, and hogs. Besides they bred for amusement, hares, geese, and poultry. That an idea of individual property was prevalent among them is manifest from all disputes respecting limits of lands, having been referable for their decision to the Druids. In their negotiations with each other, for money they used rings or small plates of iron strung together, and what proves great exactness in their dealings is, these passed among them by weight as well as tale. Supposing they possessed no minted coins, this circumstance alone would be a sufficient evidence of their civilization; since it is deducible from history, that no nation in a state of barbarism ever adopted in buying and selling a circulating medium. That they posssessed a foreign commerce is manifest, for the inhabitants of Britany, or Bretagne, traded hither in large ships and the ports of Briton were visited by merchant vessels from the

Levant. These facts * respecting the first inhabitants will suggest to the reflecting mind, that, the Romans on their arrival did not find our ancestors hordes of ignorant savages; but a people, though widely different from their invaders in temper, customs, and manners, having all the necessaries, and some of the conveniencies of life: and what is the most invaluable of all possessions, contentment in their condition. It will also further appear, that so early as their actions furnished materials for history, the Britons breathed a spirit of genuine freedom; had imbibed rational notions of its political advantages, and the miseries resulting from despotic power. Upon this principle, therefore, they always studied to procure, and preserve their liberty, and whenever they were deprived of it, by any undue extension of arbitrary power, they never ceased struggling till the galling yoke of despotism was removed. The same spirit animated their minds, and the same temper pervaded their actions, when their country was invaded by the Romans. Excited by a patriotism, never exceeded in the annals of man, and stimulated by a noble ambition never to be satisfied, but by victory, nor extinguished, but by death, they fought with a degree of bravery, that astonished the legionary troops; performed prodigies of valour, which nearly represented them as invincible; and disputed every inch of ground with a tenacity and obstinacy, that extorted from their victors the tribute of admiration†. Suetonius Paulinus overcame the Ordovices, and extirpated the remainder of the Druids, and other religious, who had fled to the island of Mona, the principal seat of their superstitious rites; vainly imagining, the Deity would there afford them an invulnerable shield against the Roman arms. Notwithstanding this, the heroic Silures for

* For the documents on which these are founded see Cæsar, de Bello Gallico, Lib. I. IV, V. et VI. Ammianus Marcellinus, Lib. XV. Diodorus Siculus, Lib. VI. Tacitus in Vita Agricolæ, and Stillingfleet's Origines Britannicæ.

† Tacitus describes this spirit of resistance by the significant and very emphatic term, *pervicacia*, a stubborn immobility of character.

for years continued their struggle for liberty, till at length Julius Agricola was sent hither with a powerful army by the emperor Vespasian; and having entirely defeated the Britons under their intrepid leader, Caractacus, in a decisive battle near Caer Caradoc, on the borders of Salop, he completely reduced this part of the Island to the Roman yoke. The affability of this General gained him the affections of the people, and, many by his great urbanity he disposed to embrace the Roman manners; flattering them with the names, and bestowing on them the privileges of citizens; receiving them into his armies, providing for the education of their youth, living amongst them in a style of great hospitality, rewarding their valour, and commending their learning and politeness. Thus, securing by policy what he had won by force, Cambria was dignified with the name of *Britannia secunda*: and the conquerors, as they had previously done in Britannia prima, began to establish jurisdictions, appoint magistrates, and adopt other measures for the due and regular administration of the laws. Towns were built, stations appointed, and garrisoned, and roads formed for intercommunication between them. So speedily and successfully did they proceed in their settlement of this country, that in a few years, Wales assumed all the appearance of a Roman colony. The following were the *stations*, erected on that occasion.

Caer Gybi, Holyhead in Anglesea.

Segontium, Caer Seiont, Caernarvon.

Varis, Bodvary in Flintshire, near Denbigh.

Caergwrle and *Holt*, also in Flintshire, appear to be sites of stations.

Banchorium, Bangor-Iscoed on the banks of the Dee.

Heriri Mons, placed by Stukeley, near Bala in Merionthshire; but with greater probability at Tommen y mur near Festiniog; yet *Caer Gai*, in the vicinity of the former place, seems to have been a station.

Mediolanum, Meivod, or Myfod, in Montgomeryshire. Three other places in this county, seem to lay claim to such honourable

honourable distinction, viz. *Penalet* near Machynlleth, *Caer-Sws* in the vicinity of Newtown, and the *Gaer* by Montgomery.

Magna, Gale and Stukely place at Old Radnor; but Horsley has removed it to Kenchester.

Loventium, Llanio isa in Cardiganshire.

Ad vigesimum, mentioned only in the itinerary of Richard de Cirencester, is supposed by some to have been situated at Castel Fleming, and by others near Narberth, in Pembrokeshire.

Menapia, the port for Ireland, near the present St. David's.

Maridunum, Caermarthen.

Llanvor ar y Bryn in Caermarthenshire is evidently the site of a station.

Leucarum, Louchar, or Lougher, in Glamorganshire.

Bonium, Boverton, near Ewenny.

Nidum, Neath.

Tibia Amnis, Caerdiff.

Gobannium, Abergavenny in Monmouthshire.

Blestium, Monmouth.

Burrium, Usk.

Isca Silurum, the cap ital ofthe colony, and residence of a prætor.

Venta Silurum, Caerwent.

Ad Sabrinum, On the Severn, near the new, or old passage.

The towns, classed as stations, were of different degrees, varying not merely in the rank of civil estimation; but also in the nature of their constitution. They were particularly distinguished into four orders, *latian*, *colonial*, *municipal* and *stipendiary*. The first had the Jus Latii communicated to them, which exempted them from the ordinary jurisdiction of the prætor; and the inhabitants were not governed by a foreign præfect and questor, but those officers were elected from among themselves. A Briton was their president, a Briton their justiciary, and a Briton their collector, and such as had served these offices, became entitled to the privileges of Roman citizens.

Of

Of this description there were several in Britain, but none in Wales.

The second kind were governed by a different polity. They were those towns or cities, which formed the head quarters of the respective legions, where some of the principal cohorts were stationed, the eagle or standard was deposited, and the commander in chief resided. Towns of this class were occupied by Romans, and chiefly by legionary soldiers, who received portions of land in the neighbourhood, as a reward for past services; and as an inducement to be vigilant in the suppression of insurrection. Yet for the sake of protection numbers of the natives took up their habitation near, and were consequently deemed Roman citizens, and subjected to the imperial laws. Such was the *Isca Silurum*, the ancient Caerleon.

The third, or stipendiary towns had their constitution courts of justice and offices copied from those at Rome, and governed by officers, deputed by the prætor.

Exclusive of these, a few ranked as Municipia, by virtue of which distinction they were invested with the privilege of enacting laws for the regulation of their own affairs, and were exempted from subjection to the imperial code. The inhabitants also, without being divested of their native citizenship, were considered as denizens of Rome. None of this description appear to have existed in Cambria.

Of the Roman Roads, though more distinct traces might be supposed to exist in Wales, than in England, from their vestiges not having been equally liable to obliteration, by the hand of cultivation: yet for want of due investigation few of them have been traced in a satisfactory manner.

For a clue to the inquisitive visitor of an interesting country on this point of antiquarian research, the following distinction may by useful. 1. *Via Julia Maritima.* 2. *Via Julia Montana.* 3. *Via Occidentalis.* 4. *Via Devana.* 5. *Via Orientalis.* 6. *Northern Watling-street.* 7. *Southern Watling-street.** Remains

ins also of *Vicinal*, or cross roads, are discoverable in several places.

1. *Via Julia Maritima*, which received the name of Julia from Julia Frontinus, who successfully conducted the Roman arms against the Silures, is supposed to have connected the stations contained in the eleventh Iter of Richard de Cirencester. This road was a continuation of the Akeman street from *Aqua Solis*, Bath; and directing its course westward across the Severn, passed through Monmouthshire to *Tibia Amnis*, Caerdiff in Glamorganshire; thence to Bovium, or Bomium, near Ewenny, to *Nidus*, Neath; *Leucarum*, Lougher; *Maridunum*, Caermarthen; *Ad Vigessimum* Castel Fleming, near Amblestone in Pembrokeshire: whence it proceeded to *Ad Menapium*, near St. David's. Although probably this was the direction, yet few traces of this road have been discovered, except on that part of the line, which traverses Monmouthshire†.

2. *Via Julia Montana* was an upper road, forming a communication from the more central parts of the Island by the Ryknild-street, coming from *Glevum*, Gloucester, and passing through the superior part of Monmouthshire, entered the county of Brecknock, where it is visible at the Gaer, and near it have been discovered Roman bricks, inscribed, *Leg.* II. *Aug.* and an antique stone, on which are sculptured a male and female figure. Its direction was by Rhyd y Briew bridge, and near Trecastle it proceeded over the mountains to the station at *Llanvair ar y Bryn*, near Llandovery and thence along the vale by Llandilo to Maridunum, Caermarthen, &c. where it coalesced with the maritime, or lower road already described, and both terminated at St. David's. It is said to be visible in the vale of Whitland, but no satisfactory vestiges, to mark its precise course, have hitherto been discovered.

Via Occidentalis. This appears to have extended along the western coast of Wales, from *Ad Menapium* to *Segontium*, forming

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. Introd. p. CXL.

† See Beauties, Vol. XI, Monmouthshire, p. 4.

VALLE CRUSIS ABBEY
Denbighshire.

Proof

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and Tradsfynydd, at Pen Sarn or the head of the street. Over the mountainous tract, which seperates the counties of Merioneth and Caernarvon it must have entered the latter by the only pass, between Pont-Aber-Glas-lyn to Beddgelert. Mr. Williams in his description of Snowden observes, that there is in the parish of Bettws a farm, called *Ystrad*, or the street, over which the Sarn Helen extends to Llanbublic, in which parish are the ruins of the ancient *Segontium*.

Via Devana *, takes a direction through the centre of the principality, from the southern coast about *Nidus*, Neath, to *Deva*, Chester. Near the former place it is visible, and seen passing over an uncultivated mountainous tract of country by the station Gaer on the small river Ysgyr, to another upon the Ython at Castel Collen in Radnorshire; whence its course was probably in the direction of Maes ar Helen, northward of Castel Duybod, to the station *Caer-Sws*, on the Severn. From this Station the road is in places visible in the parishes of Aberhavesp, Tregynon, Llanwyddelan, Llanlugan, Llanfair, Llanerfil, and its general direction is northerly; but where it found the station *Mediolanum*, so called from several roads passing through its centre, is a point difficult to decide. Horsley places it at Draiton in Shropshire, and Gale and Stukeley with greater probability at Meivod or Myfod in Montgomeryshire; but the line of road, so far as hitherto discovered, cannot be traced to that place; and as no iter contains the distances between Mediolanum and the two opposite stations, conjecture can obtain little assistance. The last vestiges, which Sir Richard Colt Hoare discovered in his various researches, led him into the vale of Tanad, where if he had found any Roman remains, he would

tain the imperial dignity till the year 304; and this, as a communication between many of the stations, must have subsisted long anterior to that period. Most probably this name, given to all the remains of ancient roads in Wales, is merely a corruption of *Sarn lleion*, or *Sarn y lleng*, that is, the *legionary* road.

* This is called Devana from its communicating with the station *Deva*, and for a similar reason it has received in the interior, the name of *Sarn Swsan*.

would have been inclined to have fixed the questionable station *. From Mediolanum however it certainly extended northwards to *Bovium*, Bangor on the river Dee; and thence to *Deva*, or West Chester.

Via Orientalis. This road took a north-easterly direction from Isca Silurum, or as it is called in the Iter, which describes it, *Isca Legionis Secundæ*, to *Uriconium* in Staffordshire, and as far as it was connected with Wales, has been previously described in this work †.

A branch of the *northern Watling-Street* entered Wales at Chester and inclining to the West, passed the station *Varis*, Bodfari, to *Conovium* Caer-hen, near Conway, where bricks inscribed *L. XX. V.V.*, that is, *Legio vicessima victrix*, have been found with other Roman antiquities. Hence ascending the hill by Bwlch y ddyfaen, it went towards the sea, running nearly parallel with the Menai straits to Segontium.

Another branch of the *Southern Watling-street*, extending from *Urioconium* to Segontium enters Wales, near the village of Llandrinio, near which, at a place called *Street*, it is plainly visible; and proceding to Mediolanum, was there met by the Via Devana. Inclining west through the same vale it passed Llangynog by Trum y Sarn to Caer-Gai near Bala; whence it is known under the name of *Sarn hir*, or the long causeway, and crossing the mountains by the opening of Bwlch y Buarth joins the Via Occidentalis, already mentioned, at Heriri Mons, and continues with it to Segontium.

Numerous vicinal roads also traversed the country from station to station, vestiges of which are traceable in various places. A road of communication branched off from the Via Occidentalis at Penallt, and proceeded easterly to Caer-sws, and is visible between Newtown and Welshpool, in a direction for the large Roman camp called the *Gaer*, near Montgomery.

A road extended northeasterly towards the station, on the river Ython from Llanvair ar y Bryn, between which places it is

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. I. Introd. p. CLX.

† See the Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 6, and Vol. VI. p. 496.

Britton & Beauclerk

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales:

OR,

ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY

THE REV. J. EVANS.

VOL. XVII.—[redacted]

See the sun gleams; the living pastures rise,
After the nurture of the fallen shower,
How beautiful! how blue th' ethereal vault,
How verdurous the lawns, how clear the brooks!
Such noble warlike steeds, such herds of kine;
So sleek, so vast; such spacious flocks of sheep
Like flakes of gold illumining the green,
What other paradise adorn but thine,
Britannia! if thy sons would know their happiness.

DYER.

LONDON:

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1812.

succeeded in the imperial affairs, that it would occupy too much room to attempt a brief discussion of the discordant accounts given by writers *, respecting the revolutions, and consequent devastations, which happened at that eventful period. The Romans were miserably harrassed on all sides by the surrounding barbarians, and the Britons unable to derive their usual protection from the legionary troops, shared a similar fate. At the period when the invaders bade a final adieu to this island, the country was exposed to the inroads of numerous enemies. Assailed on the north by the Picts and Scots, it was equally infested by the Irish on the West. The native strength of the country had been exhausted in the support of foreign wars; the number of its inhabitants further diminished by famine and pestilence; and the grand bulwark of its safety, the navy, was fallen into decay. Under these disadvantages the people were, also, in want of that unanimity, so essential to become powerful in times of emergency. They had recourse to their ancient form of government, and elected for their governors, certain reguli, or chieftains; but these princes, instead of uniting to oppose the common enemy by well concerted plans of co-operation, and to ward off the impending danger by combined force: were principally occupied in securing their separate interests. It has been remarked by a very judicious writer †, that the great source of the misfortunes, which happened to the Britons, was the political error committed by the Romans, in not making an intire conquest of the island. This had been the design of Julius Agricola, and if Domitian had suffered him to have effected, what he was very near accomplishing, then would the Romans at their departure have left the whole of the inhabitants in a similar, or better condition than what they found them; and of course, by reverting to their aboriginal constitution, they would have been united under one supreme monarch, or Pendragon; and being free from intestine divisions, they

* Zosimi Historia, Lib. VI. Gildæ Historia de Excidio Britanniæ. Bede Historia Ecclesiast, lib. I.

† Stillingfleet's, Origines Britannicæ.

they would have found their united strength sufficient to have repelled the attempts of invasion, by any foreign enemy. But enervated by luxury, and weakened by dissensions, they found themselves in a worse state, as to self defence, than on the arrival of Julius Cæsar. In this sad situation without union, order, or discipline, and attacked on all sides by inveterate foes, through infatuation or despair, they adopted the most impolitic of all expedients for national safety, that of calling in the assistance of one barbarous nation, to drive out another; which quickly in the sequel, subjected them to a new and heavier yoke.

Of the melancholy effects, which took place during those times of confusion, and trouble, the British Historians, Gildas and Nennius, indisputable authorities, give ample testimony; and their narratives are not simply relations, but pictures of the period, drawn by men who depict, as though they had been eye witnesses; and seem to speak of the different scenes as though they had both seen and felt, and that in language correspondent to the circumstances they relate.

On the arrival of the new race of settlers, the *Saxons*, besides the many sovereignties into which the island was then divided, a personal competition appears to have existed between one, that tyrannised over the other princes, named Gwtheyrn *, and a chieftain of Roman parentage, called Ambrosius, but by the Welsh, Emrys Wledig, or Emrys the chief. During this contest, to repel the incursions of the Scots and Picts, Gwtheyrn called in the assistance of the Saxons, an army of whom arrived under their leaders Hengist and Horsa, sons of Woden. The Saxon General having driven back the enemy, and discovered the pusillanimity of the British monarch, turned his attention towards establishing his troops, and securing for himself a portion of the territories he had defended: this plan, through the treachery or incapacity of Gwtheyrn, he was enabled to accomplish. The insulted and enraged Britons proceeded to depose the traitorous monarch, and placed Emrys Wledig, on the throne

* By most English writers called Vortigern.

in his stead; who is described as brave, modest, and sincere, and whose parents had worn the imperial purple*. For a time he prevailed against the Saxons, but fresh troops arriving under the command of Ella, they were enabled to become victorious; and to extend their territory. On the death of Emrys, his brother Uther, commonly called, from his office, Pendragon, was elected to the sovereign dignity. The intestine warfare was continued between the Britons and Saxons with varied success; but numerous hordes continually arriving from the northern hive of population, the latter became formidable in several parts of the island. Arthur, the son, and successor of Uther, so celebrated in the annals of fame, though the existence of such a personage has been doubted by some †, and denied by others ‡, for a series of years conducted the war against the invaders; and in many desperately-fought battles led on the Britons to decisive victory.

At the time this prince held the Pendragonate, it appears that Wales was divided into two sovereignties, for, by virtue of being chief ruler, he demanded, in the year 518, for the warfare in which he was engaged, the assistance of Caron, king of Scotland; Maelgwyn, the sovereign of North-wales; Meyric, prince of South-wales; and Cador, duke of Cornwall; and at the same time received the support of his nephew Howel, king of Armorica in Gaul ||. During this and the late reign the ancient Britons had attained the meridian of their glory, but the period, assigned in the concatenation of events, for the fall of their empire, approximated to a close; though the beams which threw a degree of radiance on its decline, lingered for a time in the west, until gradually receding from the sight, not a single ray was visible in the horizon. The death

* Gildas Hist. Nennius Hist.

† Milton is sceptical upon this point.

‡ Lord Lyttleton's History of Henry II. But for the refutation of both opinions, see the able and unanswerable defence made by Turner, in his History of the Anglo Saxons, Vol. I. p. 101.

|| Warrington's History of Wales, Vol. I. p. 106.

death of Arthur, decided the fate of Britain. The splendour, which had distinguished the preceding era, having principally derived its lustre from the virtue, and the valour of a few individuals, who took the lead in the contest, became clouded by the opposite qualities, so conspicuous in the princes of the subsequent period. The Britons, constrained by necessity to take up arms, were frequently victorious; though their successes are so magnified and accompanied with so much of the marvellous in the detail, as not only to surpass all credibility, but even to render problematical the very existence of the conquerors. And could they have abstained from intestine quarrels, and thoroughly united in the common cause, they might yet have recovered and preserved their country. But this lesson, which prudence dictated, they could not even learn from disastrous experience. So that whenever they obtained the least respite from their foreign foes, they relapsed into civil dissensions; by which they not only exhausted their military strength, but were diverted from adopting the means by which they might have prevented the return of the enemy, and provided for their own security. Arthur had appointed his nephew Constantine, son of Cador, duke of Cornwall, as successor to the pendragonate; and the appointment was confirmed by the elective voice of the people. The Saxons to excite divisions, espoused the cause of the sons of Mordred, the late regent; and while the Britons were settling the dispute, their wily adversaries were rapidly extending the bounds of their empire. During these troubles many of the people submitted to the Saxons, and the Scots; others, to preserve their freedom, fled into distant countries, to Armorica and Bretagne; some retired with their effects into the wilds of Devon and Cornwall; some took shelter in the mountainous part of the north of England; but by far the greatest number found refuge in the fastnesses of Wales; where they defended and preserved their independence, long after the expiration of the Saxon dynasty. At the period, when the latter had conquered the greater part of Britain, and made their approaches to the borders of Cambria, the country appears to

have been divided into six principalities, under so many reguli, and Maelgwyn king of Northwales, was invested with the sovereign dignity, about the year 552. The contest was continued under several succeeding monarchs, till the death of Cadwalader, in the year 703, closed the imperial dignity, which for many centuries had been annexed to the British government; during which time the paramount princes chiefly resided at Diganwy, on the water of Conway, and at Caer Segont near Caernarvon.

Rodric Moelwynoc, nominally succeeded to the sovereignty in 720. By continual and unhappy divisions, the strength of the country was so diminished, as to become unable successfully to resist the incursions of the Saxons. The Mercians, under king Offa, frequently laid waste the country, and at length wrested a portion from the Welsh princes, and to prevent the new occupants from the retaliating vengeance of the Welsh, Offa caused that famous boundary to be made, from the mouth of the river Dee to the Wye, which still goes under the appellation of Clawdd Offa, or Offa's Dyke. By this the region was considerably narrowed, and nearly reduced to its present limits. Though the Saxons made frequent inroads, yet they do not appear to have had any permanent footing in the country; so that, though the page of History relates many sanguinary conflicts which took place between them, and the Welsh, yet scarcely any vestiges remain to mark the incursions of the invaders.

The Danes had called off the attention of the Saxons from the Welsh who from this circumstance were left for many years to enjoy a season of unusual tranquillity. But instead of taking the advantage of this fortunate conjuncture, a fatal plan was adopted, and irreparable measures ensued. Roderic, who succeeded Mervyn to the sovereignty of Wales, in the year 843, divided his dominions into three principalities, * which during his life were governed by chieftains, acting under his authority. These

* British Antiquities revived by Vaughan of Hengwrt.

These separate sovereignties he left to his three sons. In the year 877, Anarawd became prince of Northwales, called by the Welsh Gwynedd; and the royal residence was at Aberfraw, in Anglesea. Cadell received the portion of South Wales, and had his palace at Dinevwr in Caermarthenshire. Mervin possessed Powys-land, and a palace at Mathraval in Montgomeryshire. This division of the country has usually been considered as first made by Roderic. But from a very old treatise still extant of the British laws, it appears, that after the death of Vortipor, or Vortimor, the inhabitants of Venedotia, Powys, and Dimetia, assembled together for the purpose of electing a new king, and that in consequence of the triple choice, Maelgwyn prince of North Wales became their sovereign. To this fact also the British chronicles bear ample testimony. Indeed partition of some kind, in cases where the monarch left more than one son, naturally happened by the ancient law of Gavel-kind * Little is heard of Wales in history during the Danish dynasty. The Danes made some incursions on the coast, but effected no permanent conquest of the country.

On the accession of William the first to the throne of England, the Welsh, having refused the annual tribute to the crown of London, which had been extorted from them as a mark of submission by king Edgar, the conqueror invaded their country with a powerful army, quickly awed them into submission, obliged them to do homage and take an oath of fealty, as due from vassals to their superior Lord. From this period the English monarchs preferred a claim to Wales, as their heritable property.

On

* A. D. 872. The country of Wales was divided into three kingdoms between the three sons of Rhodri, or Rodric, viz. Cadell the eldest son had Ceredigion and Dyved; Anarawd, the second, had Gwynedd; and Mervyn the third had Powys; leaving the district between the Severn and the Wye, to the descendants of Caradoc Vreichvas, or the brawny arm; and Morganwy with Gwent to the descendants of Morgan the courteous; so that Wales and the nation of the Cymry, became governed by *five royal tribes*. Chronicle of Jevan Brecon, in the Myvyrian Archaiology.

On the death of William the people of Cambria, feeling the galling yoke of their humbled condition, attempted to recover their lost independence, and joining in revolt with some refractory English barons entered England, and by fire and sword carried their devastations to the banks of the Severn. These outrages determined William Rufus to attempt the subjugation of the country, and for this purpose he adopted the principle of Machiavelian policy, "*Divide et impera.*" And an incident happened at this juncture, from a trivial occurrence, which produced such a change in the affairs of South Wales, as was decidedly favourable to the plans of the English monarch, and eventually led to the fall of Cambria. Eineon a Welsh chieftain, having combined with two others in rebellion against Rhys ap Tewder, the king of South Wales, but who by defeat were baffled in their infamous attempt; he saved himself from deserved punishment by flight; and associated himself with Jestyn ap Gwrgaint, lord of Glamorgan, who also was up in arms against his sovereign. Similarity of disposition begat an union of interests, and an agreement was formed between them to this effect; that Justin should give his daughter in marriage to Eineon, on condition that the latter, who had served in the Anglo-Norman armies, should procure, a body of Norman troops to assist in their projected scheme. These were readily furnished by the policy of the English. Robert Fitzhamon, a baron of the realm, with twelve select knights of considerable note, subordinate to his command, undertook the adventure. Having succeeded in the enterprize by completely defeating the king of South Wales, Eineon then demanded of Jestin the fulfilment of the engagement, which the latter refusing, he proceeded to resent such faithless conduct by exciting the Normans to espouse his cause, and avenge his quarrel. This they effectually did, and Jestin was quickly dispossessed of his territories, which the Norman leader parcelled out among his followers, agreeable to the feudal system. Fitzhamon reserving for his own share the principal parts with the seignory of the whole, gave the remainder of Morganwg to the twelve knights *,

knights*, to be held as fiefs under himself; leavin
barren mountainous parts, as the portion of Eineo
manner were the lords of the marches established in V ;
possessing in all cases, except the power of granting pardons for treason, *Jura regalia.*

"The fortunate issue of the late adventure raised among the Norman nobility an ardent spirit of enterprise. The king of England threw powerful temptations in their way; alluring them by motives of interest and power; those strong incentives to human conduct. Several barons petitioned the crown for licence to possess, under homage and fealty, such lands as they might obtain by conquest in Wales. This liberty, given to the English lords of conquering, at their own charge, the territories of the Welsh, though springing out of a wise policy, was apparently grounded on the absurd idea of forfeiture; because that people had renounced the allegiance to which they had through necessity submitted during the operations of Edgar, Harold, and the decisive reign of the Norman conqueror."* South Wales was soon attacked by these military adventurers. Among the foremost was Bernard de Newmarche, with a train of followers, who subdued and took possession of Brecknockshire. Roger de Montgomery did the king homage for Cardigan; as did also Arnulph, his youngest son, for the great lordship of Pembroke. Nor were the northern parts of the country long secure from the encroaching spirit of the times. The earl of Shrewsbury having paid homage for Powys-land proceeded to subdue that region. Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, did the same for Englefield

*The castle and manour of Ogmore was given to William de Londres; the lordship of Neath to Richard Greenfield; that of Coyty to Paine Turberville; Llan-Blethyan, to Robert St. Quintine; Talavan to Richard Siward; the castle and manour of Penmark to Gilbert Humfrevile; the castle and manour of Solly to Reginald de Sully; the manour of East Orchard to Roger Berksolles; that of Peterton to Peter le Soor; that of St. George to John Fleming; that of Fenvon, to John St. John; and the manour of St. Donat, to William le Esterling. See Wynne's History of Wales, p. 115.

* Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Vol. I. p. 371.

field and Rhyvonioc; Ralph Mortimer, for the district of Elvel. Hugh de Lacie, for the lands of Euas, and Eustace; and Cruer, for Mold and Hopedale. In the year 1102, king Henry the First bestowed several other lordships and castles in Wales, on Englishmen, and Normans; and for the purpose of still further breaking the high spirit of the Cambrians, he introduced in the year 1108, into Pembrokeshire, a numerous colony of Flemings. These barons, denominated *lords marchers*, from the old English word merch, a boundary, endeavoured to secure their conquests by peopling them with English, and erecting strong fortresses to defend them from the inroads of the Welsh. Thus was the last asylum of the Britons broken into on every side, and invested by their enemies. The principality of South Wales was subdued; Powys, through the defection of its princes, fully in possession of the English; while North Wales, now reduced to Anglesea, Caernarvon, Merioneth, with parts of the counties of Denbigh, and Cardigan, alone preserved the national character, and supported its independence; and the inhabitants, aided by the valour of their princes, still upheld the struggle; and acquiring vigour from union, dictated by necessity, not only prevented the marchers from atchieving further conquests; but rendered their existing acquisitions of precarious tenure.

For a long period did the Welsh, favoured by the mountainous nature of the country, support an unequal, but spirited contest, with their unjust invaders, for a detail of which we must refer to the writers on Welsh affairs, a list of which will be annexed to the present work*. The death of David, who had succeeded

* As several names of Welsh princes will unavoidably occur, in the course of describing the several places in the principality, it may be proper to enumerate those, which succeeded to the government, after the partition of the country by Roderic Mawr. The following is the genealogy of those who reigned in South Wales, ascending upward according to the order of Welsh pedigrees. Rhys, son of Gruffydd; Gruffydd, son of Rhys; Rhys, son of Tewdwr, Tewdwr, son of Eineon; Eineon, son of Howel Dha, or Dha; Howel, son of Cadell; Cadell, son of Roderic the Great. The princes of North

succeeded his unfortunate brother Llewelyn, in the reign of Edward the First, closed the only sovereignty that remained of the ancient British empire; which, through varied fortune, had opposed the arms of imperial Rome; and effectually resisted the Saxon and Anglo-Norman efforts for its subjugation through the protracted space of eight centuries. Edward having at length obtained the object of his ambition by the intire conquest of Wales, annexed it to the crown of England.† That Monarch did not however enjoy a tranquil possession; for three insurrections broke out simultaneously in different places, though, as it afterwards appeared, upon no preconcerted plan, nor directed by any common principle of co-operation. The inhabitants of West Wales took up arms under their leader MaelgwynVychan, and carried devastation over the counties of Pembroke and Cardigan. The southern parts revolted under the command of Morgan, a descendant of the lords of Morganwg; and Madwc, an illegitimate son of Llewelyn was at the head of the insurgents of North Wales. This general revolt commenced with such acts of hostility, as evinced a resolution and inveteracy in the Welsh, that loudly proclaimed the sword alone could terminate the dispute. To such a height did these commotions arrive, that Edward was constrained to conduct the war in person, and from a want of union between the Welsh chieftains, he shortly compelled them to lay down their arms, and make an unqualified submission. These disturbances, the subsequent revolt of Sir Gryffydd Llwyd, and the rebellion of Owen Glyn Dwrdwy, commonly called Glyndore, were the last efforts the Welsh made to recover their lost independence. From that period the concerns of the country

Wales descended from the same ancestor, thus: Llewllyn, son of Jerwerth; Jerwerth, son of Owen; Owen, son of Gruffydd; Gruffydd, son of Conan; Conan, son of Jago; Jago, son of Edouel; Edouel, son of Meiric, or Meirig; Meiric, son of Anarawd; Anarawd, son of Mervin; Mervin, son of Roderic the Great. Anarawd leaving no issue, the princes of Powys have their peculiar descent. Hoare's Giraldus. Vol. II. p. 262.

† This was effected in the year 1284. See the statutes at large. Vol. X. Appendix.

try, till the time of Henry the Seventh, are little interesting;—for the inhabitants were reduced to a state of the severest bondage.* Henry the Seventh from the assistance the Welsh had afforded him in obtaining the crown, the title to which he made out by his descent from Rhys ap Tewdwr, was more favourably inclined towards them, than preceding monarchs; and granted the principality considerable immunities. But still in a national point of view, their state was far from enviable. Several ameliorating statutes were passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth to exonerate them from the tyrannical oppressions of the lords-marchers; and at length the people, awake to their true interest, solicited the king to give his liberal designs a more salutary effect, by extending to them all the privileges of the English jurisprudence. The prayer of their petition was granted, and Wales was formally united and incorporated with England.*

During centuries this country was the theatre for the display of the most heroic courage and conspicuous martial prowess, ever exhibited to the world; and while it made a bold and continued stand for liberty, unexampled in the annals of man; opportunities occurred of learning the art of fortification, and necessity would impel the natives, equally with their assailants, to bring it into use to the most powerful extent. Wales therefore abounds with the remains of encampments, lines of circumvalation, strong holds, hill-fortresses, castles, and castellated mansions; specimens of *military architecture* therefore in the diversified styles of different and distant periods constitute some of the most prominent and very interesting features in the artificial part of its picturesque scenery. While the Romans generally chose for the site of their camps or forts, a rising ground near some river, or a lingula, formed by the confluence of two; the Britons selected the most lofty, insulated, and least accessible mountains, the summits of which they fortified by excavating deep

* See statutes at large, 27th Henry VIII. c. 26, & 34, 35, of Henry VIII. c. 26.

* See statutes at large, in the reigns of Henry the Fourth, and Henry the Sixth.

deep trenches in the solid rock, adding valla by heaping up the loose stones, dug out of the fosses; and in succeeding times, by adding strong walls, and erecting massy circular towers, with other bastion works of defence. Among the former, may be classed, Moel Arthur, and Moel y Gaer, in Flintshire. The Gaer, near Montgomery; Trer-Caeri, and Dinas, in Caernarvonshire; with Carn Madryn, Pen y Crag, and Pen y Parc, in the county of Brecon. Of the latter description, are Dolbadern, and Penmanmawr, in Caernarvonshire; Caergwrle, in Flintshire; Craig y Dinas, in Merionethshire; Carreg Cennin, in Caermarthenshire; and Castle Coch, in Glamorganshire, with numerous others, which will be noticed in the course of this work.

The Normans introduced a new and more magnificent style of military fortification;—and to secure their unjustifiable seizures, and proceed in their sanguinary aggressions, they were obliged to erect castles more formidable, both in number and extent, so that what are termed the marches of Wales, consist of one broad line of massy fortresses from the mouth of the Dee to the embouchure of the Wye. Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Powys, Brecknock, Caerphili, and Caerdiff furnish bold examples of the style at that period. More were erected by the Anglo-Normans as they progressively encroached on the country; for to secure the possessions they conquered from the retaliating vengeance of the expelled owners, they were necessitated to repair and strengthen the fortresses they took, or build others. Thus did this kind of buildings so far increase, that Mr. Pennant enumerates one hundred and forty-three castles in the principality; and the number is probably short of the actual amount. On the conquest of Wales by Edward the First, that monarch, who had been crusading in the holy land, and there imbibed a spirit for eastern magnificence, for the purpose of overawing his new but refractory subjects, constructed three castles in a style, which for strength, beauty, and grandeur, have never yet been surpassed. Harlech, Caernarvon, and Conway, remain the proud monuments of the Cambrian conqueror's footsteps, and

the finest display ever evinced of skill and execution, in military architecture.

CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT, and LAWS. From the accounts given by the Roman writers, a monarchial form of *government* was prevalent among the early Britons. The island was divided into several petty sovereignties, each subject to a separate prince; but in time of emergency and danger were united in one, under an officer similar to a dictator among the Romans, called a *Pendragon*. To him by joint consent was committed the whole military government of the independent tribes. Nor was this dignity temporary, like the power, for though the latter appears to have ceased with the necessity that demanded it, yet the former continued for life, and was hereditary to the male heir.* But the right of succession to the separate governments does not seem to have been strictly indefeasible; for, in some instances, the lineal succession was violated by the rule of *tanistry*. By this the king's son, brother, or nephew, became the customary inheritor of the crown; the particular person being selected by the reigning monarch, with the advice of his nobles. This sovereign elect, was denominated by the law, the tanist, or the second in dignity. No power, but the regal, could either enact or abrogate a law; yet the king could effect neither without the consent of the country. And this maxim, on which is founded the fair structure of popular liberty, is expressly recorded in the institutions of Wales. The Britons were not unacquainted with that rational restraint upon monarchial despotism, parliamentary suffrage. It is highly probable, that the constitution of all the British states in the period of confusion which followed the evacuation of the island by the Romans, was not exactly the same; but that some of their princes enjoyed greater powers and privileges then others; still it is evident, that none were despotic: for a decisive argument in favour of the existence of British parliaments, is found in the preface or introduction to the *laws* of the great Cambrian legislator,

* Taciti Annales. Lib, XII. c. 33. Cæsar de Bell. Gall. Lib. IV. c. 30. and Lib. V. c. 19, 20, 22.

lator, Howel Dda.† Six of the most intelligent and powerful persons were summoned out of every Cantref, or hundred, to assist the king in the great work of legislation. This parliament having been assembled, they proceeded to examine the ancient laws, cancelled some, reformed others, enacted new ones, and digested all into one regular code of jurisprudence. This revision they presented to good king Howel, which he having approved, gave the ratifying sanction of royal authority. Both the monarch and parliament then proceeded to imprecate the power of the state and the wrath of Heaven upon any who should violate, or attempt to abrogate any of these institutes, unless they should be constitutionally annulled in a national council, similar to the one in which they had recently been discussed. The origin of laws must have been nearly coeval with society, and evidently from the circumstances of this revision, many of those in the code of Howel Dda were pre-existent statutes, by which the early Britons had been regulated in previous times. For in the Triades,* Dynswal, Prydain and Hywel are mentioned, as the three good princes of Britain for improving and extending the laws, customs, privileges and uses of the Cymry; so that all might obtain equal justice and protection. From these it appears, that immediately below the sovereign, ranked the *Uchelwyrs*, or great men, holding their lands *in capite* from the crown, and each presiding as lord over his particular domain. As immediate tenants of the king they were obliged to perform certain services. Some held their lands by a tenure, similar to the grand serjeantry among the Normans, by an obligation

† This work, magnificently printed in folio, is entitled, Cyfreithjeu Hywel Dda ac eraill, seu Leges Wallicæ Ecclesiasticæ et civiles Hoeli boni, et aliorum Walliæ principum, quas ex variis codicibus manuscriptis eruit interpretatio Latina, notis et glossario illustravit Gulielmus Woltonus, S. T. P. adjuvante Mose Guilielmo, A. M. R. S. Soc. qui et Appendicem adjecit. Londini MDCCXXX.

* These called "The Triades of the Isle of Britain," are some of the most useful and curious historical fragments in the Welsh language, and are denominated triades, from being composed in triplets.

which period the laws of England, with the exception of a few formal peculiarities, have continued to form the jurisprudence of Cambria.*

Ecclesiastical history, religion, manners and customs. The *religion* of the Britons, when Cæsar first visited the Island, was of a kind peculiar to them, and the cognate tribes of Gaul. It abounded with singular tenets, and the mode of worship comprised numerous superstitious rites, the remaining vestiges of which form some of the most interesting antiquities of the country. *Bardism*, or the *Druidical* system † as it is generally called, has by different writers been variously represented: and the term *bardd*, or *bard*, given to the Welsh poets who were not of the Bardic order, has tended to increase the confusion on the subject. What may be considered, as the foundation of the order was the principle of universal benevolence, so that a bard was prohibited by his tenets from bearing arms; and recognised as the herald of peace, under the title of Bardd ynys Prydain, he could pass, when clad in his unicoloured azure robe, unmolested from one hostile country to another. A second general principle was the investigation of truth; and a third, was the perfect equality of its members. Leading considerations also among the Bards, were the publicity of their actions, all their *Gorseddau* or meetings being held in the open air, in a place, set apart by a circle of stones with one in the centre, called *Cylc Cyngrair*, or the circle of federation; and the invention of an oral record, by which the Bardic

* For a full account of the ancient Welsh laws, see the code of Howel Dda, already mentioned. And for the present mode of conducting legal business, Foley's Practice of the Court of Great Sessions, in South Wales.

† Druidism, Mr. Owen observes, is a mistake, by giving the appellation of a particular branch to the whole of the order; for as a matter of convenience, an appropriate set of Bards, were distinguished by the name of *derwyddon*, or Druids, to give notoriety and discriminate visibility to the religious functionaries. See a sketch of Bardism, prefixed to a translation of the works of Llywarc Hen, by William Owen, from which many of these remarks have been selected, compared with other authorities. To the labours of which Gentleman, the lovers of Cambrian literature are deeply indebted.

Bardic traditions were delivered down to posterity; which for the purpose were recited twice a year in their general assemblies by the *dadcciniaid* or reciters*. The bards were divided into three classes, the *Bard braynt*, *Derwydd* †, and *Ovydd*: and the disciples, or candidates for the Bardic order, were denominated the *Awenyddion*. These three classes formed the national college, and its members, on admission assumed one or other of these distinctions. To the *bards braint* or proper, belonged the perpetuation of the customs and privileges of the system, and also, of its moral and civil institutes. The *Derwyddon*, or Druids were the priests, who officiated in things pertaining to religion, from which circumstance, and the great influence they had over society, this class became the most conspicuous. *Ovyddon*, or the Ovates more particularly attended to the cultivation of the arts and sciences. The Theology, or tenets of the bards may be in a great degree collected from what Cæsar, Tacitus, and other Roman writers have advanced, compared with the maxims, preserved in the British *Triades*. Whence it will appear, their religion bore considerable affinity to that of the Patriarchal age, which it is highly probable therefore, was the fountain, or source from whence the doctrines and rites originally

* Some have ignorantly asserted, that the Bards, or Druids, were unacquainted with the use of letters; but Cæsar asserts the contrary; and the learned author of the Welsh Dictionary observes, "that their original alphabet is yet extant. It contains thirty-six letters, sixteen of which are radical, and the rest are mutations of those; and it is the only one adequate to convey all the sounds of the Welsh language, without using double characters. It is singular, that the Bardic alphabet should contain all the *Etruscan* letters, without the least deviation of form, except four or five in the latter, which are Roman."

† The derivation of this term has been by some writers, supposed to be from the British word *derw* an oak, on account of the veneration paid by the Druids to that tree. But a more emphatic etymology is that of Mr. Owen. "The word *Derwydd* implies *one set before*, or in *presence of*. I am aware some have rendered it oak-man, but the oak was called *derw* for the same reason, as the priest was called derwydd, from its being consecrated wood, and both derived from *dêr*."

nally flowed. The Bards believed in one creator and governor of the universe, pervading all space, and their conception of his existence was, that the substance of deity cannot be material, and what is not matter must be God. The world, though subject to numerous revolutions from the elements of water and fire, they considered of permanent duration. The soul they supposed, pre-existed in a state of gradual advancement by transmigration, and that it was immortal: but their ideas of the Metempsychosis, did not extend to the degree it does among the Bramins of India, so as to prohibit the depriving any creature of life: for it was allowable to destroy such as were directly, or eventually might become, destructive to man. After many transmigratory changes, according to the moral turpitude or filthiness the soul had acquired by sin, it arrived at a state in which evil never could have the ascendency, and yet it might return again to a state of second manhood, and the return of such a benign soul, was considered a blessing to the world. Propitiary sacrifices formed part of the Bardic religion, as it did of most others, whether pure or corrupt, which have prevailed throughout the world. And after all that has been advanced by Borlase * and others to exonerate the Britons from the charge of offering up on their sanguinary altars, *human* victims; truth evidently demands the admission of the horrid doctrine †. If the country was in danger from enemies, numbers of its inhabitants were suffering by disease, or any calamity befel it, which indicated the divine anger, the deity must be appeased by offering human beings, as sacrifices on his altars. They thought that the life of man could only be redeemed from punishment, but by his fellow creature's

* Antiquities of Cornwall.

† Vestiges of the custom remain to the present day, and a curious specimen of it is still afforded in the usages of some parts of Wales. When a violent disease breaks out amongst the horned cattle, the farmers of the district, where it rages, join to give up a bullock for a victim, which is carried to the top of a precipice, from whence it is thrown down. This is called. "*Burw cueth i gythraul,*" casting a captive to the devil.

ture's life, and that no other mode existed to deprecate the wrath, and conciliate the favour of God. Thieves, robbers, and other criminals were the usual sacrifices, but in case of a deficiency of such to offer, the innocent were doomed to suffer. At these gloomy rites the Druids administered. And women destitute of clothing, having their skin tinged with a dark hue, acted as sibyls on the occasion, consulting heaven on futurity, by inspecting the quivering entrails of the proffered victims*. But this was not peculiar to the Britons, few of the nations of antiquity were free from this foul blot in their escutcheon; and even our Saxon ancestors, till converted to christianity, were in the habit of offering up human sacrifices to their god Woden, and numerous other imaginary deities †.

The ancient world, inclusive of the most enlightened nations, as they were termed, were universally impressed with a belief in magical powers. But from several observations of Pliny it may clearly be deduced, that this mischievous imposture was peculiarly cultivated by the British Druids. "Britain he observes, now celebrates magic in such an astonishing manner, and with such numerous ceremonies, that she might be imagined to have been the instructress of the Persians." The Druids were indeed so superior in knowledge and intellect to the rest of the inhabitants, that their magical frauds must have been easily invented, and securely practised: and Wisardim in such hands, a powerful engine to overawe and cajole the great mass of the people. The same author informs us, that their superstitious fancies considered the missletoe sacred, if it vegetated from the oak. On the sixth day of the moon, which was the commencement of their months, years, and chronological cycle of thirty years, they visited the oaken

 groves;

* The British sibyl, like Dido, is described by Virgil,

Ante ora deum pingues spatiatur ad aras,
Instauratque diem donis, pecudumque reclusis
Pectoribus *inhians, spirantia consulit exta.*

Æneid IV. l. 62.

† Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 18.

groves; and if they came to a tree on which they perceived any of the parasitical plant, they prepared a sacrifice under the venerated object, to which they led two white bulls, whose horns were then first tied to the altar. The officiating Druid, clad in white, climbed the tree, and with a golden hook pruned off the Misseltoe, which was ceremoniously received in a white woollen cloth by the priests below. They then proceeded to offer up their victims, and addressed their Gods to render it a means of prosperity to the persons to whom it was presented on the occasion: for they believed that it produced fecundity, and was an amulet against the most virulent poison. Without the leaves or branches of the oak, they performed no ceremonies whatever; for which purpose they selected groves of this pride of the forest, for their places of worship, and considered every thing connected, with the consecrated tree, was sent from heaven *.

" Midst rocks and wastes the grove tremendous rose:
O'er the rude altars hung in dread repose
A twilight pale; like the dim sickly noon,
When the mid-sun retires behind the moon.
From sounding caverns rushed the darksome flood;
Each antique trunk was stained with human blood.
'Twas sung, that birds in terror fled the shade;
That lightenings harmless round the branches play'd;
And in the hour of fate, the central oak
Shook with the spirit of the God, and spoke.
The Roman check'd awhile his conquering band,
And dropt the imperial eagle from his hand;
And seem'd while shuddering borne through Mona's wood,
To tread the confines of the Stygian flood †."

The Bards do not appear to have had, like many other pagan priests, mythological fables to veil and personify their religion; but their institutes, and every kind of knowledge, relative to their system, was retained wholly by tradition, in aphorisms,

* Pliny Lib. XVI. c. 95.
† Richards's Aboriginal Britons.

risms, poems, and adages of a peculiar cast. For the preservation of these, one grand plan was, the holding a Gorsedd, or general meeting, where they were recited by those appointed to commit them to memory. The regular times for holding a Gorsedd were the two solstices and equinoxes; and subordinate meetings also, for the instruction of disciples, might be convened at the new, and full moon. The ceremony used on the opening of a meeting, was the sheathing of a sword on the *maen gorsedd* *, at which the presiding bards attended, and the ceremony was accompanied with a brief pertinent discourse. When the business of the meeting was finished, it was closed by the taking up the sheathed sword, and giving a concluding exhortation, then all covered their heads and their feet, and the assembly was dismissed †.

Mr. Owen supposes, that the reason of the Britons having embraced christianity with more openness than any other nation was, the Bardic being less repugnant than other pagan systems, to the doctrines of the gospel; and that the functions of the christian priesthood continued to be exercised exclusively, by the different orders of Bards amongst the Cymry, till the arrival of Germanus and Lupus about the commencement of the fifth century. But it must be evident by comparison, that the principles of the two institutions are utterly incompatible, and the gross superstitions of the former must have been expunged by the introduction of the latter. Yet it is certain that a schism in the order, did take place at an early period. A prince of the name of Beli or Belus, formed a new code of regulations, in which it is probable, their right to the christian priesthood was either denied, or not acknowledged. The Bards of an accommodating disposition, complied with the

 innovations,

* This was the altar stone, placed in the centre of a Gorsedd, denominated by most antiquaries a *cromlech*, which not being found in ancient British manuscripts is a name unfairly obtruded upon the public.

† It appears probable, that from the Bardic ceremonies, conjurers, and magicians have borrowed their circles, wands, and gesticulations, to give their pretended spells an air of mystery.

innovations, while others attached to the ancient system, would refuse being guided by any other laws, than the public traditions of the Gorsedd. From that era the Beirdd Ynis Prydain, the genuine British Bards, formed a small dissenting sect, and at the fall of the last Llewelyn, Bardism, had very near been totally annihilated. The provincial chair, or Gorsedd of Glamorgan, however, at the request of the lords marchers and other powerful families, appointed the most intelligent Bards of the time to collect together, and digest every particular relating to the order. Of the congresses, convoked by those authorities, the first was under the patronage of Sir Richard Neville in the beginning of the fifteenth century. A subsequent one was held at Caerdiff castle, in the year 1570, under the auspices of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke; another in 1580 under the direction of Sir Edward Lewis of the Van; and lastly, a revisal of all the former collections was made by Edward Davydd, which received the sanction of a Gorsedd, convened at Bewpyr in the year 1681, by the authority of Sir Richard Basset, where the above collection was pronounced to be the fullest illustration of the ancient Bardic system. From that time to the present, a remnant of the order has obscurely existed in that part of Wales, where those meetings were held, and an attempt has lately been made to revive the institution.

Respecting those who embraced the new regulations, the peculiarities of the order merged in the profession of christianity, for they continually submitted to whatever rules were laid down for their conduct, by the christian princes, who, at the time governed the country. Modifications of the Bardic rules took place under king Arthur, in the sixth century; alterations were again made in the eleventh century, by Gruffyd ab Cynan king of Wales; and an incoherent jumble of jarring principles were adopted by a congress, held at Caermarthen, towards the middle of the fifteenth century. The persons, who embraced these new laws were called by the primitive Bards in derision, *Beirdd, Beli,* and *Over-beirdd,* that is, Beli's Bards,

Bards, or psendo-Bards. However, the latter appear to have been held in the highest estimation among the people; because they were not inimical to the clergy, nor their tenets in opposition to the established religion. They however, now appeared in a different character, being encouraged by princes and great men, as historians, heralds, poets, minstrels, and reciters of martial songs, to excite the youth to deeds of arms, and record the heroes, who fell in battle. The earliest record of these, is in the reign of Cadwalader, who died at Rome A. D. 688, and had previously presided at an Eisteddfod*, or congress of Bards. During the reign of Howel Dda, in the tenth century, the Bards were held in high estimation, and enjoyed great and peculiar privileges, their persons were held sacred, and a heavy fine, one hundred and twenty six cows, levied on the person, who killed one. If a Bard wanted to ask a favour of royalty, he must previously perform upon the harp, one of his own compositions. He preceded the army, when prepared for battle, reciting an ancient song called *Unbeniaeth, Prydain*, or the monarchal song of Britain. Bleddyn ab Cynvyn, prince of Powys established some regulations, respecting the Bards in his principality, about the year 1070: and Gruffydd ab Cynan, prince of North Wales reformed the disordered behaviour of the Welsh minstrels, by a wholesome statute, extant to the present day. At that time there existed three kinds of minstrels in Wales. The first denominated Beirdd, or the makers of songs, who, also kept records of gentlemen's arms, and pedigrees. Second, the performers on musical instruments, as the harp, crowth, pibgorn, &c. These were called telyniawru. The third were the *datceiniaid* or the reciters, persons who accompained with the voice, the instruments played upon by others. The character of Edward the First, has been generally blackened, both by historians and poets, as having issued a cruel edict for the extermination of the Bards; but this opinion appears to have been adopted

* The *Eisteddfod* was a triennial assembly of the Bards, usually held in routine at the three royal seats of the Welsh princes, viz. Aberfraw, Dinewr, and Mathraval.

tion of personal attendance on the king's court; but the majority retained their estates by the *gwaeth milwyr*, or military service, being bound on summons to attend their sovereign with a certain number of men in arms, and follow him to the war; to aid in the repair of the royal castles; and were also assessed with certain stated rents, payable in money, or kind. For one knight's fee, usually comprising about a thousand acres of land, the possessor was obliged to remit to the royal palace in the autumn, one horse-load of wheat, ground into flour, one ox, a barrel of mead, nine palms long, and eighteen broad, or in lieu, two of braget, or four of common ale, a hundred and sixty-eight equal threaves of oats for the stable, a three year old sow, a salted gammon of bacon, three inches thick; and a pot of butter, in length and breadth three palms. On failure of delivery of these rations at the appointed time, the uchelwyr was mulcted a pound and twenty-four pence. Under this reserve of tribute the lands were inheritable by the family.

Inferior to these, and holding from them as feudatory lords were the general mass of the community, being in a condition like Cæsar describes the Gauls to have been, a state of villainage. These were however divided into two classes. First, such as might retain or relinquish their lands at discretion, possessed the power of buying and selling, and whose seignorial service was the least degrading of the menial kind. The other denominated *Caeths*, were considered the property of the lord, attached to the soil, and saleable with the estate. These were bound to services the most servile, and least determinate, to build or repair houses for the uchelwyr, and perform all the drudgeries of husbandry. Both were subject like the chiefs to military attendance in time of war, and to contributions in money, or kind; and were necessarily subject to additional impositions.

Such were the tenures of lands in Wales prior to the English customs being transplanted into the country, as appears by the laws of Howel Dda, not formed by him, but referrable to previous institutes, ascribed to the early Britons. And as they were evidently feudal in their essence and military in their design, the

national music and poetry. Of this kind was an Eisteddfod, held in the fifteenth year of Henry the Eighth at Caerwys in Flintshire, in which the ancient laws, respecting this sect of Bards were confirmed, and many members admitted into the society, and to their degrees. A similar meeting, though not by royal authority, was convened at the same place, and similar ceremonies were performed at the late jubilee.

Of the religion among the primitive Bards or Druids, we have many monuments remaining in various parts of the island, particularly in Cornwall, and Wales. And though their most magnificent temples, appear to have been those of Stonehenge, and Avebury, in the county of Wilts; yet numerous vestiges of their gloomy superstition lie scattered over the face of the country. These consist first of large rude *unsculptured, upright stones*, standing single, or in some instances two or three together, which by many have been considered as merely landmarks, or tokens of demarcation between different districts, or seignories. But allowing this to have been the case respecting some; yet the circumstances which accompany others, are calculated to induce a belief, that they were erected for other purposes, and were intended as stones of memorial, or notices, commemorative of some signal event; as the signing a solemn covenant, entering into, an amicable truce, or as a grateful tribute to the valour and the virtue of a chieftain, slain in battle. Mr. Rowlands is of opinion, such rude stones were objects of idolatrous worship, as the sculptured images of the heathen Gods, were in more refined ages. "These rude erected pillar-stones, though at first, perhaps set up for good and warrantable purposes might, and we may well believe, did, become afterward in these countries, (as we find the like sort of pillars to have been in other countries about Syria and Palestine) the objects of idolatrous worship*." Those denominated *logan*, or the rocking stones, from one stone being so nicely poised upon another, as to be moveable with

* Mona Antiqua, p. 52.

with the slightest touch, were evidently instruments of religious charlatancy in the hands of the druids, and objects of superstitious veneration in their deluded followers.

Secondly of *Cromlechen* *, or cromlechs, as they have been usually called, which are formed by one vast flat stone, laid in a position nearly horizontal on three, four, or five upright stones, as supporters. These some writers suppose were only monumental trophies, sacred to the memory of considerable personages, particularly the druids, and that they constitute the prototypes in a rude, of the better executed tombs in the present refined age. But though a few are found unaccompanied with any other vestiges, indicative of their designation and and use, yet many are included in those Bardic circles, which are allowed to have been appropriated to druidical worship; and consequently appear to have been the altars on which were offered up the victims, devoted in sanguinary sacrifice. These *Meini hirian*, or British temples, consist of one circle, or two or three concentric circles of rude stones, vertically placed a few yards distant from each other, with single stones, as a kind of direction pillars to the principal entrance, and generally a cromlech in the centre. Several of these, though not of equal extent, with either Avebury, or Stonehenge; yet from their situation, and as the remains of such a singular mode of worship, as that of the ancient Britons, are objects gratifying to the eye of inquisitive curiosity. Such are Bryn y vowel, near Penmaen mawr, Caernarvonshire, Bwlch Crangwen near Clenneny, and one at Nevern in the same county; Cerrig Bradyn on the summit of Cadair Idris, and Cors y gedol, Merionethshire; Kil y maen Llwyd, Caermarthenshire; and Llancoedmore, Caerdiganshire; with numerous others, which will be noticed in the course of the work.

Though these, according to many, were appropriated to religious worship, yet other opinions have been formed, which it would appear like partiality to pass over unnoticed. Some have supposed

* From *crum* & *lech*, the crooked or inclined stone.

supposed, that they were places set apart for politica
such as the electing kings or governors, holding asse
making or promulgating laws, and for the distributio
justice. By others they have been viewed, simply,
systematically erected for the commemoration of gr
nal events. A few have suggested, that their use was
forming religious dances and those circumgyrations
in the poets and the writers of Romance; or more pr
the exhibition of public games and festive spectacle
circumstances however apparent in the construction of some of
these singular monuments, they seem designed for astronomi-
cal observations. The druids were skilled in that sublime
science, and appear to have mingled it with their religious
rites, and made it an engine to support superstition. Their
temples therefore assumed a geometrical form, particular stones
near the entrance being placed to face the cardinal points, or
only deviating so far, as, may be accounted for from the vari-
ation of the needle, or equinoctial procession.

Carnedds and *barrows*, are nearly if not strictly allied with the bardic system. The former consist of heaps of loose stones thrown together, and the latter of earth covered with turf, and on opening, in both have been discovered cistvaen or stone coffins. Of this kind, instances occur near Plas Newydd in Anglesea; between Dolgelly and Tanybwlch in Merioneth-shire; On the top of Plinlimmon, Montgomeryshire in the parish of Trelech, Caermarthenshire; and at Barrow hill near Ruthin, Denbighshire. Of their designation as places of sepulture there cannot exist a doubt, since their contents have afforded demonstration; but a difference of opinion has arisen as to what period, or people they should be ascribed. From Roman coins, urns, and other remains found in or near them, they have been supposed the burial places of some imperial generals. But as hydrotaphia, or urn-burial, was the custom among the Romans, and interment the practice of the Britons, it is reasonable to conjecture, where such insignia have been discovered, the tumuli are the sepulchres of some British chief-

tains who fell in the Roman service. Mr. Rowland, however, contends, that the Carneddeu, or larger heaps of stones, "are the remains and monuments of ancient sacrifices, the positive rites of religion and worship at those times," and alludes to the patriarchal custom mentioned in the scriptures, and the ancient way of paying adoration to Mercury. But the opinion of their being sepulchral, is the least objectionable, and the present custom in Wales, when any unhappy wretch, who has committed felo de se, is buried in biviis, or the cross roads, of passengers continuing to throw stones upon the place of interment, till by this means they have accumulated a considerable heap, is evidently a vestige of the original British practice. The ceremony in saying "*Karn ar dy ben*," or ill betide thee, on casting each stone, is no objection; because after the introduction of christianity, the pagan kind of sepulture would consequently come into disrepute; and what was once a mark of distinction, be converted into a disgrace.

From many of the British monuments having been destroyed by the barbarous rage of the Saxon invaders, it is difficult to determine whether *Christianity* was established by the divine mission of the apostles, and their first disciples, or by the pious labours of succeeding missionaries. From the want of authentic records, a darkness is thrown over this eventful period, and the truth is still further obscured in the legendary fables of monkish superstition. The dawn of the appearance of this lovely stranger in the British isles is discovered in the conversion of Lleirwg, called by the Romans Lucius, prince of the Silures, and nominal king of Britain, who reigned at the latter end of the second century. Having embraced the Christian faith he formed the noble design of diffusing the blessing over the whole of his dominions; and for the patriotic purpose sent ambassadors to Rome to solicit of Eleutherius, twelfth bishop of that see, able divines to instruct the people in the mysteries of this religion. The king's request was chearfully complied with by the pious prelate, who sent Fagan, Dyvan or Damian, Elvan and Medway for accomplishing the holy purpose; and

the first Christian church appears to have been buil
under royal privilege and protection. By the a
dustry of these evangelists, the Britons general wer
duced to embrace the gospel; and the Christian institut
ceived considerable strength and union, by being red
a regular establishment. For this prince is said to hav
his plan of church government upon the model o
converting the heathen temples into places of Ch tian
ship *, and dividing the national church into three ecclesia
provinces; each of which was a metropolitan see, and the
dence of an archbishop. e of these was Caerleon on
and the province comprised the whole of Wales. At th
time that Christianity ac ed this degree of r
school for religious learnit ; was established at Ba
in Flintshire, which for a time became the great
knowledge to the province of Cambria.

From that period to the Diocletian persecution, including an interval of eighty years, the ecclesiastical history of Britain is unknown; but from the concurring testimonies of Tertullian, Origen, Gildas, and Bede, there is sufficient reason to believe, that Christianity made a gradual, if not a rapid progress. But during the continuance of that scourge, which proved nearly fatal to the Christian cause, the church of Britain shared in the deep and general calamity. This country afforded numerous martyrs to the truth, and amongst those of Wales, the name of Aaron and Julius stand eminently conspicuous. In the reign of Constantine the Great, Christianity flourished over the Roman world, and more especially was it fostered in this Island, reputed the birth place of that emperor. In the year 314, a council was assembled at Arles, at which several British bishops assisted †; soon after North Wales is said to have been converted to Christianity, by the exertions of Kebius Corinnius, son of Sampson, Duke of Cornwall, who was constituted bishop of

* Bede Eccles. Hist. Gulfrid. Monmouth, Lib. V.

† These were the archbishops of London, York, and Caerleon.

of Anglesea*. Subsequent to this, the British church, which had been remarkable for the strict adherence to the genuine doctrines of the gospel, had its peace destroyed by the followers of the notorious schismatic Morgan, a Cambrian divine, better known under the latinized denomination of Pelagius. By the determination of a council held by the Gallician church, St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre, with Lupus bishop of Troyes, was sent over to this country to prevent the spread of the contagious tenets. These prelates observing, that the evil had arisen in a great measure from the ignorance of the clergy, recommended the erecting collegiate institutions for the instruction of those, designed for holy orders. Two most eminent ones on that occasion were established; one at Henllan, and the other at Mochros, in South Wales, under the immediate direction of St. Dubricius; who had distinguished himself by his able refutation of the Pelagian errors, and become so famous for his learning and piety, that numbers from all parts of the island were placed under his tuition. Iltutus, or St. Ilted, was placed at the head of several schools, which were of great repute, and among his disciples were numbered Gildas, and Daniel, afterwards Bishop of Bangor. Paulinus founded a school at Ty-gwyn in Caermarthenshire, under whom studied St. David. Another school was founded at Llancarvan in Glamorganshire; to which may be added the celebrated monastery, previously noticed of Bangor-iscoed in Flintshire.

Those seminaries were monuments of the pious labours of St. Germain, during his abode in Cambria, on his second mission, from which emanated many characters who became an ornament both to the church and their country. Having erected a Cathedral at Llandaff, consecrated Dubricius arch bishop of Caerleon, and directed the Gallican liturgy to be used instead of the Roman, † he again retired to his native soil.

St. David, who succeeded Dubricius, with the consent of king Arthur, on account of the troublous times, removed the archiepiscopal

* Godwin de Præsul. Spelman Concil. Vol. I.

† See Collier, Eccles. Hist. Book I. Cent. 5.

copal seat from Caerleon to Menevia which was subsequently known under the appellation of St. David's. At this time the archbishop had under him three suffragans, the bishops of St. Asaph, Bangor and Llandaff. Among other eminent men who flourished in the church about this period may be reckoned CADOC PADERN, OUDOCEEUS, KENTIGERN, ASAPH, COLUMBA GILDAS, and COLUMBANUS.

Cadoc, abbot of Llancarvan, the son of a British prince, lived about the middle of the sixth century, and distinguished himself by having maintained above three hundred of the clergy at his own expence. He died in the year 570.

Patern, or *Padern* was descended from a noble family in Amorica, and travelling into Ireland he lived for some time in a state of seclusion; but quitting his retreat, he came into Wales, where he raised himself to considerable eminence by his piety, and was the esteemed friend of St. Teliau and St. David.

Oudoceus, was third bishop of Llandaff, and convened the clergy of his diocese for the express purpose of excommunicating Mouricus, king of Glamorgan, for the murder of Cinitus.

Kentigern, was maternally descended from Lothus a Pictish king, and being devoted to piety he lived an ascetic life to prepare himself for the ministry, and visiting North Wales founded there a religious society; after which he returned to his native country and died at Glasgow in the year 560.

St. Asaph, was of noble extraction, received his education in the monastery of Llanelwy under Kentigern, whom he succeded; and dying in the year 590, left his name to the city over which he presided.

St. Columba, was born in the year 522, being descended of a Scotch family, that resided in Ireland: but for the promulgation of the Gospel came into Britain, and during his travels converted Bridius king of the Picts; under whose sanction he founded a monastery of Iona, one in the Hebridean isles.

Gildas, who was born in the year 520, became the pupil of Iltutus, and acquired a considerable share of learning as is evinced in a work, which he completed in the forty-fourth

year of his age, entitled *De Excidio Britanniæ.* He resided in the celebrated monastery of Bangor, where he was eminent for superior oratorical talents, and has the honour of being the principal author to whom the world is indebted for the history of the æra in which he lived.

Columbanus was a native of Ireland and the pupil of Congallus, abbot of Bencor. Leaving that country he came into Britain to preach the gospel about the year 589; whence he removed into Burgundy, where he founded the famous abbey of Luxevil.

Numerous others, distinguished for their zeal and piety, are noticed by ecclesiastical writers, and their memoirs are recorded in the appellations of different churches through the principality, to which they have not only given names, but are also considered the patron saints, viz. Tysilio, Twrog, Beuno, Aidan, Daniel, Peirio, Cerdio, Flewin, Hynfarwy, Christiolus, Cyngar, Jestin, Seiriol, Patrick, Cybi, Elion, Mechel, Tegfan, Rhuddlad, Tyfrydog, Pabo, Dwynwen, Coinwen, Meirion, &c. &c. &c.*

To these, the churches denominated after them, have erroneously been supposed to be dedicated; but the original dedication in the primitive ages, was to the holy and undivided trinity; and the conferring that honour upon some favourite saint or servant of God, was an innovation of later date. In those early times the clergy had no distinct cures or separate parishes, where they resided, but they lived together with their respective bishops in monastic, or collegiate bodies on their own property, or the gratuitous offerings of the people. Here, collectively, they were habituated to the exercises of reading and prayer, and hence proceeded to perform the duties of their function in such districts as were allotted them by their diocesans. There were at that early period, but few churches in the country; therefore the places made use of for divine service were chiefly scattered cloisters and oratories,‡ where the ministers of the

* For a further account of these, see Rowland's Mona Antiq. Restaur. p. 154. and Harpsfield Eccles. Hist. Ang. c. 27.

‡ This accounts for the numerous places in Wales, distinguished by the appellation of *Mynachty.*

the district came at stated times to read and expound the scriptures, and administer the sacraments to the people. But this being found inconvenient, as Christians increased, churches began to be built in divers places, in which the respective ministers resided; and hence arose the establishment of parochial cures, which took place soon after the horrid massacre of the monks at Bangor, by the barbarous Saxons. Hitherto the Cambrian church had preserved its independency, but though it silently opposed the innovations of the Romish church, respecting baptism, the time of keeping Easter, and the celibacy of the clergy; and St. Augustine had in vain attempted to establish his own supremacy, and produce an uniformity of worship between the Welsh and Saxon churches; yet, in the reign of Conan Tindaeddwy, having suffered Elbodius to be appointed archbishop of North Wales, the clergy gradually were induced to acknowledge the sovereign pontiff.

In the year 1101 the diocese of St. David fell under the jurisdiction of the archi-episcopal see of Canterbury, king Henry the First having nominated one Bernard, a Norman, his chaplain, to the bishopric, who was consecrated without the consent of the clergy, in whom had uniformly, till that period, resided the election of their bishops. On the subjugation of the country, by Edward the First, the whole of Wales, as to its ecclesiastical affairs, submitted to the metropolitan see of Canterbury; and at the dissolution of the monasteries, the Welsh having been subjected to the English laws, of course, the Romish clergy in Wales, experienced a similar fate to those of the sister kingdom. And from the close incorporation of the two countries, the history of the church after that time is nearly similar in both.

Though the Welsh strenuously resisted the Romish doctrine of clerical celibacy, so late as the convention of a synod by archbishop Anselm in the year 1103; yet they appear to have been strongly tinged with Romish superstition; and their religious character at an early era, is thus delineated by a masterly hand.

"In ancient times, says Giraldus,* about two hundred years before the overthrow of Britain, the Welsh were instructed and confirmed in the faith, by Faganus and Damianus, sent into the island at the request of king Lucius by Pope Eleutherius, and from that period, when Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, came over on account of the corruption, which had crept into the island by the invasion of the Saxons, but particularly with a view of expelling the Pelagian heresy, nothing heretical, or contrary to the true faith was to be found among the natives. But it is said, that some part of the ancient doctrines are still retained. They give the first piece broken off from every loaf to the poor; they sit down to dinner, by three in a company, in honour of the trinity. With extended arms and bowing head they ask a blessing of every monk or priest, or of every person wearing a religious habit. But they desire, above all others nations the episcopal ordination and unction, by which the grace of the spirit is given. They give a tenth of all their property, animals, cattle and sheep, either when they marry, or go on pilgrimage, or by the council of the church, are persuaded to amend their lives: this partition of their effects they call the great tithe, two parts of which they gave to the church, where they were baptised, and the third, to the bishop of the diocese. But of all pilgrimages they prefer that to Rome, where they pay the most fervent adoration to the apostolic see. We observe that they shew a greater respect than other nations to churches and ecclesiastical persons, to the relics of saints, bells, holy books, and the cross, which they devoutly revere; and hence their churches enjoy more than common tranquillity. For peace is not only preserved towards all animals feeding in church-yards, but at a great distance beyond them, where certain boundaries and ditches have been appointed by the bishops, in order to maintain the security of the sanctuary. But the principal churches to which antiquity has annexed the greatest reverence, extend their protection to the herds, as far as they can go to feed in the morning, and return at night. If, therefore,

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 334.

therefore, any person has incurred the enmity of his prince, on applying to the church for protection, he and his family will continue to live unmolested. But many persons abuse this indemnity, far exceeding the indulgence of the canon, which in such cases only grants personal safety; and from the places of refuge even make hostile irruptions, and more severely harrass the country than the prince himself. Hermits and anchorites more strictly abstinent and more spiritual can no where be found; for this nation is earnest in all its pursuits, and neither worse men than the bad, nor better than the good, can be met with,"§ Little deviation, in a religious point of view, has occurred, since the time of Giraldus, in the national character of the Welsh, except what has proceeded from the effects of the Reformation: the same devotional spirit, the same ardency of zeal, and the same propensity to superstition is discoverable amongst them to the present day. And hence it is that in no part of the British isles do the people display the beauty of religion when guided by reason, more than the Welsh; nor more strongly exhibit its deformity, when under the influence of fanatacism. There are many sects of what are considered regular Protestant dissenters from the established church, which had their rise in the reigns of James, and Charles the First, and more especially during the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, who have their distinct places of worship. But the greatest number of seceders from the churches are the different descriptions of methodists, whose places of assembling, multiplied over the face of the country, receive the appellation of chapels. Indeed the cause of dissent appears to be annually increasing from some powerful causes or other; and unless timely prevented, the whole ecclesiastical face of the country will undergo a complete change. The general illiterate state of the regular clergy has been one assignable reason, and which, to a certain extent, must be admitted even by the friends of the establishment. For most of the livings in Wales are so small, and the

§ Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 334.

stipends of curates so scanty, that no inducement is held out for youth being properly instructed for the ministry; and consequently the churches must be served by incompetent ministers. But this evil is likely soon to be remedied. For by the zealous endeavours of the present worthy and learned bishop of St. David's, two learned seminaries are about being instituted, one at Ystradmeyrig; and another at Lampeter, in Cardiganshire, for the education of youth designed for holy orders; who will be provided with able tutors for instructing them both in arts and divinity.

Most places of note in Wales enjoy the benefit of a *free-school*, and in the year 1749, for the instruction of the children of the lower orders, a hundred and forty-two itinerant schoolmasters were appointed by the society for the propagation of Christian knowledge. Those among Protestant dissenters have been provided for in this respect, by the pious bequest of that truly liberal man Dr. Daniel Williams, many years a respectable pastor of a congregation in London; who left by will a large sum of money for the establishing numerous *charity schools* in places where such institutions appeared most desirable: by virtue of which the trustees have erected many in divers parts of the principality.

The lovers of *ecclesiastical, monastic,* and *sepulchral architecture* will find ample scope for amusement and admiration, in the remains of religious buildings, both in an integral and delapidated state, still visible in various parts of the principality. The affinity of England to Wales has been assigned as the reason for architecture appearing nearly on a level in each, because that as a new species of building arose up at different eras in one country imitations would speedily find an introduction into the other. This after the time of William the Conqueror would obviously be the case, not only from the near connexion, which arose from territorial collocation, but also from the circumstance of many of the English sojourning among the Welsh; first, as authoritative visitors, and then as absolute conquerors. Hence it is evident how so great a similarity should be prevalent in the modes

of building, adopted by both people: for through Cambria is apparent in churches, monasteries, and other religious structures, the same modes of design, the same good taste, the same exquisite workmanship, and the same decorative display in finishing, as is conspicuous in England.

Of the *Roman-British* manner of constructing religious edifices no specimens remain to furnish the faintest trace. And of what has usually been considered the *Saxon* style, no examples can be adduced, but what written documents refer the chronological inquisitor, to the time of the Norman conquest. Except in the first or more early class of this species of buildings, may be ranged the nave of Margam Abbey church, the principal parts of which are composed of breaks, plinths, and an abacus, supporting arches, all in the simplest style, with which the windows accurately correspond.* Bearing all the features both in columns, arches, door-ways, and windows, which have been laid down as indications of the genuine Saxon manner in its plainest dress, is part of the north side of the nave of Ewenny church, in Glamorganshire. Yet this was erected by Maurice de Londres, a *Norman* lord, several years subsequent to the conquest. To this period is also assignable the fine entrance receding arch in the ruined abbey of Strata Florida, in Cardiganshire.

Part of the south side of the nave in Manorbeer church, Pembrokeshire, erected soon after that period, exhibits the *pointed* arch, the adoption of which is evinced in the north side of the nave of St. David's cathedral. And in the ruined nave of Llandaff church is visible the pointed style after its emancipation from that motley one, produced by an incongruous intermixture of the circular and pointed arch, marking the era of King Henry the First. These specimens, with their various ornamental adjuncts, compared together, plainly shew that the pointed order had no other source, than that of a regular and progressive course, from one mode of design to another; and originat-

* On viewing this specimen of ancient architecture, we are naturally struck with its great simplicity, and astonishing resemblance, to the correct proportions of Italian design.—Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 414.

ing in the accidental discovery of *intersecting* arches.* In the fourth class, comprehending those buildings in which the shafts of the columns are divided into stories by fascia or bands, as is seen in Westminster Abbey, may be placed, as an example of this charming style, the east end of the chapter house belonging to Margam Abbey.

During the reign of Edward the Third, a new style of architecture became prevalent, which by a profusion of ornament and variety of decoration has received the appropriate denomination of the *florid style*. Of this, one specimen only appears in Wales, which is the exquisitely beautiful rood-loft in the cathedral of St. David.

The sixth class includes such buildings as were erected from the year 1377 till 1483; in which is manifest a different order of design from that of the preceding period; the pointed arch was not so sharp, the enrichments were fewer, and declined in the redundancy of their parts. This in Wales can only be illustrated by decorations, or minute parts of buildings, as the niche at the east end of the north aisle, belonging to the choir in the cathedral church of Llandaff.

In the reign of Henry the Seventh another material change took place in the style of architecture. The pointed arch was now so flattened, that the line was obliged to be struck from two centres: yet the more acutely pointed one was not wholly abandoned. The moulding, which had usually accompanied the direction of the arch, took a new turn, being placed horizontally,

* After so obvious a procedure of design, for the purpose of producing variety in plans and decorations, it is surprising to find how ingenious learned men have been, to render complex what is the case in almost all discoveries, simplicity. Hence a Warburton would lead you to find the first model of an arch in the intertwining of arboreal branches. And another elegant scholar will inform you, that the pointed arch, which we call gothic, is the *primitive* arch; for as this may be constructed without a centre by advancing the stones in gradual projections over each other, and then cutting off the projecting angles, its invention was obvious, and naturally preceded those constructed upon mechanical principles; of which I believe there are no examples anterior to the Macedonian conquest.—Knight's Analytical Inquiry, &c. p. 166.

tally, with a small portion at each end, bent vertically; this was denominated a *label*. The decorative part was renewed from the time of Edward the Third, with redoubled brilliancy, and the interspersion of family arms, and other devices produced in the ornamental parts almost endless variety. An instance of this is a gateway at Crickhowel, in Brecknockshire.

Numerous specimens of sculpture also will be found in screens, shrines, tombs, fonts, stone-seats, and other minuter parts of the interior of ecclesiastial buildings, and very curious examples of the state of the art during the period, subsequent to the departure of the Romans, occur in the inscribed and decorated crosses, which succeeded the rude, unhewn, upright stones of the druidical age; and which from certain endless involute ornaments in relievo, have erroneously been supposed and described by several writers, as Runic monuments and relics of Scandinavian superstition. In a general point of view, as an interesting tourist remarks, "On the whole, the pleasure of travelling in Wales is in some degree tinged with melancholy, on observing the honest and amiable manners of its inhabitants, to find so many appearances of a fallen country. One of the reflections, which will most forcibly strike an observing traveller in Wales, and scarcely meet with credit from those who have not visited the country is, the height of improvement and grandeur to which it had attained at an era, looked back upon as barbarous, through the delusive medium of modern pride. The style of castle architecture, the style of cathedral architecture, the style of even the cottages that yet remain, evince the flourishing state of those arts, which infer a corresponding convenience in others, whose evanescent nature precludes us from more direct evidence of their perfection. In England our ancestors have left us dispersed in various places splendid remains of their greatness; but in Wales you can scarcely travel ten miles without coming upon some vestige of antiquity, which in another country you would go fifty to trace out. Nor is it alone in the palaces of lords that these features of civilization are to be found. The ruins of ancient farms, and barns, are particularly to be noticed

noticed, as unquestionable evidences of opulence and fertility. The agriculture of the country was much in the hands of the clergy; and it was no uncommon thing to meet with barns belonging to abbies and monasteries, capable of containing more than the produce of the parish in which they are situated, in the present supposedly improved state of cultivation. It is indeed well known, that long before the date of those vestiges which still remind us of former grandeur, the Welsh nation had passed through a former, and very luminous period of civilization, that of the Roman empire in its most flourishing state. For several hundred years did the Britons enjoy the benefits of that illuminated period;"* so that they never fell into a state of real barbarism, though they sunk into poverty and that misery, already alluded to, subsequent to the dereliction of the island by the Romans. But notwithstanding these distresses, they retained some traces of learning and the fine arts, and for delicacy and good breeding they do not appear, through the middle ages, to have been inferior to their neighbours the English.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION, DIVISIONS, &c.---Wales, by its aquatic boundary, forms nearly a peninsula, being washed on the north and west, by the Irish sea, on the south and south-east by the Bristol channel, and limited on the east by the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Salop, and Chester. It is situated between fifty-one degrees twenty minutes, and fifty-three, twenty-five of north latitude; and between two degrees forty-one minutes, and four, fifty-six west longitude, from Greenwich. The length from north to south, extends from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and eighty miles; and the breadth from fifty to eighty; comprising an area of about 8125 square miles, equal to 5,206,900 acres of land; and according to a recent census, the number of inhabitants amounted to 544,375, or nearly 67 persons to each square mile. From the reports to the board of agriculture, it appears, that of the land 900,000 acres are subject to the plough, and 2,500,000 under pasturage, leaving

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* Malkin's Scenery, Antiquities, and Biography of South Wales, Vol. I. Introd. p. 77.

ing 1,700,000 acres out of the whole agrarian admeasurement, in a state of waste; of which quantity 700,000 acres have been reported as capable of being brought into cultivation.

Wales was formerly, as previously observed, of much greater extent, having for its boundaries the natural lines of demarcation, the Severn, and Dee. The ancient dimensions were however at various periods contracted by severing from it the portions of the several counties, situated westward of those rivers; and taking out of it the whole county of Monmouth. The limits of the various districts of Wales, with the above exception, and their names, have been retained from a very remote period to the present time, independent of the modern arrangement of them into shires, as imposed by the English government. The division of Wales* made in the time of Llewelyn ap Gruffydr the last prince of North Wales, was into three provinces, one dependant on Aberfraw in Mon; the second on Dinevwr in the south; and the third on Mathraval in Powys. And the distribution of these into Cantrefs † was as follows:

To ABERFRAW were assigned the fifteen cantrefs, or hundreds of Gwynedd, viz. *Mon* containing three, Aberfraw, Rhosyr and Cemaes. *Caer yn avon* four, Aber, Arvon, Dunodig, and Lleyn. *Merrionydd* three, Merion, Arwystli and Penllyn. *Perveddwlad*, five, Ystrad, Rhyvoniog, Rhos, Dyfryn Clwyd, and Tegeingel. These were snbdivided into thirty-eight comots.‖--- *Mathraval* was subject to the following divisions, viz. *Powys Madog*, comprising five Cantrefs, Barwn, Rhiw, Uwchnant, Trevred, and Rhaiadyr. *Powys Gwenwynwyn*, five, Evyrnwy Ystrad, Llyswynao Cydewain, and Cynan. *Rhwng Gwy a Havren*, four, Maelienydd, Elvel, Clawdd and Bwallt. These were further sub-divided into forty comots.

DINEVWR

* This account is taken from an ancient Welsh manuscript, entitled Llifer coch, preserved in the library of Jesus College, Oxford, an extract from which has been published in the Myvyrian Archaiology, Vol. II. p. 606.

† Derived from *cant*, a hundred, and *tref*, a town or village, and nearly answers to the English territorial division, called a hundred.

‖ In Welsh *Cwmwd*, that is a division, or smaller district.

Dinevwr comprised *Ceredigion* having four cantrefs, Penwedig, Canol, Cadell, and Seirwen, or Hirwaen. *Caervyrddin*, four, Finiog, Eginog, Bychan, and Mawr. Brycheiniog, three, Selyr, Canol, and Mawr. *Morganwg*, four, Gorwenydd, Penydden, Breinol, and Gwaenllwg. *Gwent*, two, Gwent Uwch coed, and Iscoed Gwent. *Dyved*, seven, Emlyn, Arberth, Daugleddyv, Coed Penvro, Rhos, Peoidiog, and Cemaes; sub-divided into seventy-eight comots.

Nearly similar to this, is the present civil division of the country into twelve counties, six included under the appellation of North Wales, viz. Anglesea, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, and Merioneth: and six in South Wales, viz. Cardigan, Radnor, Brecknock, Glamorgan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke. The centurial subdivisions remain nearly the same as in the time of Llewelyn. The whole contains fifty-eight market towns, and seven hundred and fifty-one parishes; and according to the enumeration made under the population act in 1801, the number of houses amounted to 108,053, inhabited by 541,546 persons, viz. 275,178 males, and 284,368, females; of whom 53,822 were employed in trade, handicraft or manufacture, and 189,062 in agriculture, and the average scale of mortality, according to registered burials, for a period of ten years, appears to have been in the proportion of 1 to 60 of the existing population. By the returns to Government, the state of the lower classes, forms a subject of serious and melancholy consideration. The amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in the year 1809, was 186,394; forming the enormous ratio of 7s. and 1½d. in the pound rate.

For the purposes of administering justice, Wales is divided into *four* circuits, viz. The Chester circuit, including the counties of Chester, Flint, Denbigh, and Montgomery. The northern circuit, for Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth. The south-eastern circuit, for Rador, Brecknock, and Glamorgan. And the south-western circuit, comprising the three shires of Cardigan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke. By a statute, passed

in the reign of Elizabeth, the king was empowered to appoint two persons learned in the laws to be judges in each of the Welsh circuits, which had but one justice before, or grant commissions of associations. And by another statute, passed in the reign of George the Second, it was enacted, that where the kingdom of England is mentioned in any act of parliament, the same shall be interpreted, as comprehending the dominion of Wales, and the town of Berwick-on-Tweed.* Wales sends 24 members to the British senate, viz. one knight for each shire, and one burgess for each county town, except that of Merioneth; in lieu of which two towns in Pembrokeshire return a member each, viz. Pembroke, and Haverford-west. The principality has given the august title of Prince of Wales to the eldest son of the king of England ever since the time of Edward the First; besides which, various places are honourably distinguished as giving titles to a portion of the peerage, viz. In Anglesea, Beaumaris confers the title of baron on the noble family of Bulkeley, as does Newburgh, on that of Cholmondeley. In Caernarvonshire, the county town gives the title of earl to the Herbert family, and Gwyder, that of baron to the family of Burrell. In Denbighshire the county town confers the title of earl on the Fielding family, and Ruthin that of baron to the family of Yelverton. The Arshburnham family derive the title of viscount from St. Asaph, as does Kenyon that of baron from the village of Greddington; and the family of Herbert possess the earldom of Montgomery. The county town of Cardiganshire gives the title of earl to the family of Brudenel. That of Caermarthenshire the title of marquis to the family of Osborne; the village of Brewse, in the same county, the title of baron to the family of Howard; and Dinevor or Dynevwr, the same to that of Rice. Three families derive their honours from Glamorganshire, viz. Stewart, baron Cardiff; Talbot Chetwynd, baron Hensol; and Howard,

* Murders and felonies in any part of Wales, can be tried in the adjoining English county, and as a certiorari lies to Wales, and indictments for misdemeanors, a writ of Habeas Corpus may of course be granted, to remove a prisoner from Wales to England.

Howard, baron Gower. The family of Herbert receive the title of earl from the county town of Pembrokeshire; De la Poer that of baron from Haverford-west; and the county town of Radnorshire gives title of earl to the family of Bouverie.

Wales pays eleven parts of the land tax, and affords to the national militia, exclusive of the local, 5889 men, viz. Anglesea 368; Caernarvon 239; Denbigh 645; Flint 377; Montgomery 520; Cardigan 456; Radnor 261; Brecknock 384; Glamorgan 754; Caermarthen 760; and Pembroke, with the county town of Haverford West, 377.

MOUNTAINS, LAKES, RIVERS, SURFACE, AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY. Wales exhibits all the features of a detached district from England, consisting of almost continued ranges of lofty mountains, and impending crags, intersected by numerous deep ravines with extensive vallies, and affording endless views of bold, wild or romantic scenery. To enumerate the *mountains*, which are nominally known to the natives, and form very striking objects to the eye of the traveller, would be endless; but a general view of them as they are grouped in expansive chains with multifarious ramifications will be useful, as tending to illustrate future allusive observations.

Of these chains it may be observed, that they generally extend in a direction from south east to north west having their escarpment, or their most abrupt declivity, on the latter bearing*; a circumstance, strongly corroborative of the Neptunean system, or the theory, which states that the present earth was once submerged by an universal deluge. Numerous projecting ridges laterally expand on various parts of the compass, in countless ramification; many of which are surmounted by lofty eminences, that are formed into to so many distinct mountains; so that, like the Alps, they seem to be mountain piled upon mountain, and hills conglomerated upon hills. In other

* See this curious geological fact demonstrated, and accounted for, in a memoir by professor Kirwan, published in the papers of the Irish Academy.

other instances they suddenly rise, in solitary and majestic grandeur, from the bosom of deep vallies; and by the abruptness of their elevation, and the craggy contour of the sides assume a terrific appearance, as they elevate their summits to the sky.

" Dame nature drew these mountaynes in such sort,
As though the one should yeeld the other grace:
Or as each hill itself were such a fort,
They scorned to stoope to give the common place*."

The principal range in North Wales is that, which is denominated the *Snowdonian* chain, from the circumstance of the lofty mountain Snowden, occupying its centre. Commencing at Bardsey Island in the south-west extremity of Caernarvonshire, the line, varied at irregular intervals by conical peaks, extends in a north-easterly direction to the promontory of Penmaen-bach, in the bay of Conway. The intermediate parts consist of the loftiest mountains in Wales. For though Snowden stands pre-eminent, yet others ascending gradually approximate in height; and by their aspiring tops appear to menace a rivalry in altitude with the hoary father of this alpine family. The general escarpment, as previously observed, is to the south-west, towards the sea; but the particular escarpment of individual mountains, or detached groupes depends on, and follows the course of the rivulets, or streams. " The greater part of the rocks composing the Caernarvonshire mountains are schistose hornblende, schistose mica, granite and porphyry, inclosing considerable blocks of quartz. The western side by which we descended is very precipitous, consisting of hornstone, upon which are placed a number of basaltic columns, more or less regularly pantagonal, standing perpendicularly to the plane of the horizon. The columns are of different lengths, about four feet diameter, with transverse

* Churchyard's Worthies of Wales, p. 109.

joints from six to eight feet asunder, and considerable depositions of thin laminated quartz in the joints *."

The *Ferwyn* chain occupies the eastern part of Merionethshire, and branches out into Denbighshire. Its length is about sixteen miles, and the breadth varies from five to ten. Cader Ferwyn, Cader Fronwen, and the Sylattin are the most elevated points. Another line ramifies off into Montgomeryshire, and joins the Breddin chain, extending into Shropshire. "The substance of which these mountains is composed is primitive schistus, that is, such as does not contain iron pyrites, or any remains of impressions of organized bodies, the position of the strata being, generally, nearly perpendicular to the plane of the horizon. The greater part of the schistus is in thick irregular laminæ, intersected here and there with veins of quartz, and vary often considerably from the perpendicular; the shivery schistus, or shale, abounding principally on the eastern descent of Trim y Sarn and the southern boundary of Llangollen vale †." Another chain, or rather a continuance of the same, extends in a south-west direction from Pennant, near the vale of Tanad, in Montgomeryshire to the sea-coast near Llangyllinin in Merionethshire. In this extensive ridge are conspicuous several lofty mountains, known under the appellation of the *Arrans* and *the Arrenigs;* the most eminent of which are Arran-ben-llyn, and Arran-fowddy, and the extremity of the line is grandly marked by the triple head of the lofty *Cadair Idris*. Except the latter, the principal elevations of this chain consist of schistus, and shale, intermixed with mica, and spar, or indurated argil. Cadair Idris, is composed of nearly similar substances to those of Snowden, viz. granite, granitell, porphyry, hornblende, felspar, and quartz. Over this immense assemblage of mountainous obstructions to the traveller, a communication is formed with the northern and southern

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour through North Wales, a small, but interesting work.

† Aikin's Journal. p. 20.

southern sides of the ridge by a narrow defile, c
the circumstance of a cross having been once erec
for the use of pilgrims, *Bwlch y groes.*

The celebrated *Plinlimmon* proudly elevates his est
above a range of table land, extending from the vic of
Llanvair in the north-east till they decline in the sou
and end in the abrupt cliffs which bound part of the ba
Cardigan, near Aberystwith. Among particular elevatio
this line after the sovereign of the group, the Carno
stand the most pre-eminent. Plinlimmon comprises Gra
Granitell of Kirwan, composed of quartz and shorl, siliceous and schistose porphyry, intersected with numerous and expansive veins of pure quartz. The secondary hills chiefly consist of primitive schistus, accompanied with quartz. Some of the schistus is of a fine texture and laminates into excellent state; but the greater part is of a coarse kind, and is either fractory or shivers into shale.

South Wales, though not equally mountainous with the northern part of the principality, nor so distinguishable for its alpine heights; yet is far from being deficient in elevations and depressions. An extensive chain of mountains stretches from Bleddva forest, north-east of Llandrindod wells in Radnorshire; crosses the northern part of Brecknockshire; continues in a south-westerly direction through Caermarthenshire; and terminates in the conspicuous ridge of the Prescely or Prescelen mountain, in the county of Pembroke. The most distinguished eminences in this line are the group, called the yellow mountains, Cwm Rhysglog, Pen y cader, Mynydd castel Newydd 'Carreg Wen, and Llanvernach.

The Fothoc hills on the eastern side of Brecknockshire commence another line, principally known under the general appellation of the *Black mountains* from the appearance given to them by the dark vegetable covering of heath and ling. Among individual elevations, remarkable for their height, are Tre beddw mountain, Pen Mallard hills, the black mountains strictly so denominated, and the high table land, which in the

south part of Caermarthenshire is closed by the isolated mountain, called Penbre hill.

These mountainous tracts abound with various kinds of valuable minerals, mines of which are worked in numerous places; and abounding, as they do, with multifarious, rare, and scarce vegetable productions, afford a rich feast to the botanist. In many instances also they are accompanied with the most delicious and romantic vallies, through which innumerable rivers and streams, flowing from countless lakes, in meandering courses deliver their waters to the sea. Vallies which in point of fertility, beauty, and picturesque scenery, stand unrivalled; for in comparison they may vie with those so far famed among the mountains of Piedmont and Savoy.

To describe all the lakes diffused through this mountainous region would prove a Sisyphæan task. Camden's continuator reckoned fifty to sixty in Caernarvonshire only, and in a manuscript topographical description of North Wales, sixty-two are noticed by their distinctive appellations. The most distinguished for extent, or the beauty of the surrounding scenery in North Wales are Llyniau Nantle, Llyn Cywellin, Llyniau Llanberris, and Llyn Conway, in Caernarvonshire; with Pimble-meer, and Talyllyn in Merionethshire. In South-Wales, Llyn Bychlyn, in Radnorshire, and Llyn Savathan or Langors pool, in the county of Brecknock.

Rivers. From the description of the numerous, pleasant, and useful rivers, already described in this work, England appears eminently conspicuous in the plenteous disposition of water for the purposes of irrigation, communication, manufactures and commerce. Wales, though a mountainous country is equally remarkable for its multifarious streams; which issuing from considerable lakes, or aided by their waters, meander through the country, and form excellent harbours at their confluence with the sea. In this respect the principality, for its extent, possesses whatever is capable of exciting and encouraging a prudent industry, to improve by skill and labour the bounties, which Nature has here bestowed with a liberal hand

for

for the most beneficial uses. The principal rivers are the *Severn*, the *Wye*, the *Conway*, the *Towy*, and the *Dee*, which have not only attained pre-eminence in fame for the utility of their navigation; but, as the theme of poets, have been celebrated in song. The former constitutes the eastern, and the latter, the north-eastern boundary of the country, between the embochures of which many others, though less distinguished in a commercial point of view, yet highly valuable for their fisheries, and other properties, fall into the sea, through an extensive line of coast.

In taking a succinct general survey, it may be eligible for the sake of method, to trace their sources in the order in which they unite their waters with the ocean: commencing with such, that in this view, class as rivers of *North Wales*.

The Dee,* has its origin in the mountainous district of Merionethshire by the junction of two small streams, which rise about four miles to the north-west of Llanwchllyn; and two miles below that village enters the extensive water called Pimble-meer. Issuing out of that beneath the town of Bala, it flows under the bridge, takes a north-easterly direction through the charming vale of Eidernion, and turning to the east in fine meandering curves, waters the picturesque vales of Glyndwrdwy and Llangollen, where it receives the tributary Bran. Thence passing to the north of Chirk Castle, and joined by the Ceiriog, proceeds beneath the park of Wynne-stay; and emerging into the expansive vale of Cheshire, takes a northerly course, passes the town of Holt, nearly half encompasses the walls of Chester, where it forms a spacious estuary, that opens a principal channel for the Irish trade.

The Clwydd rises out of a small lake beneath the northern termination of the Berwyn chain of mountains, which extend in the vicinity of Corwen and Llangollen, and running northward through a most romantic vale about eighteen miles, glides by the town of Ruthin to St. Asaph; a short distance from which

* See Beauties, Vol. II. p. 192.

city, joined by the Elwy coming from the westward, it enters the marsh of Rhyddlan, laves the walls of that castle, and three miles below, falls into the Irish sea.

The Conwy or *Conway*, issuing out of Llyn Conwy, where the three shires of Denbigh, Merioneth, and Caernarvon meet, runs in a northerly direction; and receives in the short course of twenty miles, almost as many tributary streams: the principal of which are the Machno, the Ceirio, and the Llugwy. This river having its rise in the mountainous district of Snowdonia is extremely rapid in the origin, precipitating its waters in successive falls over numerous cataracts, till emerging under the high wooded cliff of Gwydir, rushes into the beautiful vale of Nant-Conway; and flowing under the elegant bridge at Llanrwst, built by the celebrated architect, Inigo Jones, it disports itself in elegant curves, till meeting the tide at Trefriew becomes navigable and rolling its flood to Conway, swells in to a wide channel, capable of admitting ships of considerable burthen.

The Ogwen, a small river coming from Llyn Ogwen in the same chain of mountains, is similarly rapid in its course, and running in a north-westerly direction forms the small cove of Penrhyn; where it falls into the straits of Mona, opposite Beaumaris.

The Sciont, a small but rapid river, originates from a lake on the eastern side of Snowdon, and suddenly inclining to the north-west from the two beautiful lakes of Llanberis in the vale of Peris, and leaving the central confines of Snowdonia, where nature exhibits her rude outline in the most sublime and magnificent style of scenery, turns to the west; passes by the ancient city of Segontium, to Caernarvon, laves the walls of its castle, and enters the Menai straits, forming by its aestuary a safe and commodious port.

The Gwynedd is the first notable river falling into the bay of Cardigan, Criccieth and Pwllheli rivers, as they are called, being inconsiderable streams. It rises in Snowdonia and expanding into Llyn gwynnedd, passes the village of Beddgelert,

enters

enters into an immense mountainous chasm which separates Caernarvon and Merioneth, and flowing under Pont Aber-Glaslyn, the bridge forming the communication between the two counties, it falls over a lofty ledge of rocks constituting a curious salmon leap; and opening into the wide estuary, denominated the Traeth mawr, unites with St. George's Channel.

The Dawydd commences its course from the mountainous tract in the north of Merionethshire, near Bwlch Carreg y fran, and abating in rapidity, as it emerges from the hills, flows in beautiful meanders through the picturesque vale of Festiniog, and passing beneath the rich plantations environing Tanybwlch hall, opens, into the estuary of Traeth bach, which coalesces with the Traeth mawr.

The Avon has its rise near the source of the *Dee*, at a place called Drwsynant ucha; and more placid in its features than other alpine streams, winds through a narrow valley till it arrives at Dolgelley, about one mile below which, it receives the Mowddoc, a mountain rivulet, coming from the northward, and widening its channel expands into a fine estuary forming, at its confluence with the sea, the harbour of Barmaw, or Barmouth.

The Dovey or *Dyffi*, has its source at the foot of Arran Fowddy, one of those mountains which compose the Cadair chain, and flowing southward to Dinas-y-mowddu, takes thence a south-west direction through a fine rich vale towards Machynlleth, near which town it is joined by the Ceiriog; and after several considerable doublings, opening in a wide estuary, has its conflux with the sea at Aberdovey.

The Rheidiol, the first river of South Wales, according to the rotation of survey, rises in Llyn Llygad Rheidol on the Cardiganshire side of Plinlimmon mountain, within three miles of the source of the Severn, and four of the Wye. Running southerly near Pont ar monach, commonly called the Devil's bridge, it receives the dark waters of the Monach, issuing from a chasm, which precipitates its torrent over a lofty cataract just above the bridge. The united streams then turn westward, flow through a narrow picturesque valley, bounded on each

side by irregular mountains, while the banks of the river are fringed with brush-wood, intermixed with protruding rocks; and after traversing a wild district for several miles, seeks a junction with the sea in the port of Aberystwith.

The Ystwith, has its origin among a range of lofty mountains, that form a natural barrier between the counties of Montgomery and Cardigan. Taking a westerly course, it flows through Cwm Ystwith, and the delightful grounds and plantations of Hafod; passes by Crosswood Park, and turning northward, empties itself into the sea through the estuary of the Rheidiol: and though running almost parallel with that river its characteristic features are strikingly different, pleasant meadows accompany its banks, and the seats of Mr. Johnes, Lord Lisburne, and Mr. Powel, decorates the margin.

The Eiron, or *Aeron* rising near Blaen y penal, runs southward, then suddenly turning to the westward, passes amidst inclosing mountains through a most enchantingly romantic valley, and empties itself into the sea at the hamlet of Abereiron.

The Tivy, or *Tifi*, the most considerable river of Cardiganshire, forms almost an intire natural boundary between this and the counties of Caermarthen and Pembroke. Its source is found among those mountains on the north-eastern side of the county, where stood the once celebrated monastery of Stratflour Abbey. Inclining to the south-west it passes Tregaron, enters the uninteresting plain of Llanbeder; but as it approaches Newcastle Emlyn the channel becomes deeper; and the well-wooded margin is ornamented with numerous seats of the gentry. Thence, having its waters confined within precipitous banks; it increases in rapidity, rushes over the rocky bed with raging foam, and pouring over one vast cataract, forms the admired salmon leap at Cennarth ware; gliding in a majestic stream and winding round the base of the lofty crag, crowned with the ruins of Cilgerran castle, it enters a plain below Cardigan, and in a northerly direction shortly joins the Irish Sea.

The Nevern rises in the northern part of the county of Pembroke, not far distant from the village of Cilgerran, and running southerly

southerly suddenly inclines to the north-west, and in delivering its waters to the sea forms the harbour of Newport.

The Gwyn, or *Gwain*, has its source in the parish of Cilgwyn, and taking a similar direction to the Nevern, proceeds to Fishguard, where it forms a small haven.

The celebrated haven of *Milford*, receives several streams, which flow through its numerous creeks to the sea; the principal of which are the Cleddy and the Hiog, usually denominated the Western Cleddy.

The Cleddy issues from a spring on the southern side of the Prescely mountain, and running southerly passes the castles of Slebetch and Picton, meeting the tide in the noble creek of Laurenny.

The Hiog, or *Western Cleddy*, has its source near the sea, in the parish of St. Catherine, on the western side of the county, and inclining to the south runs to Hurlfordd or Haverfordwest, whence taking a sinuous course it unites with the eastern Cleddy, and both join their waters in the haven near Nayland point.

The Taf or *Tave*, derives its origin from a small lake on the eastern extremity of Prescely mountain, runs for some miles southerly, and then taking a south-east direction, near the ruins of Whiteland Abbey, passes the village of St. Clare, a little below the town of Laugharne, and falls into Caermarthen Bay.

The Towy, or *Towey*, the principal river of Caermarthenshire, though navigable only to the county town, is justly admired for the beauty of its waters, the picturesque scenery on its banks, and the interesting district through which it winds its course. Issuing from a lake near Cwm Berwyn in the south-east of Cardiganshire, and emerging from the forest of Roscob, it flows southward through an uninteresting plain to Llandovery. Inclining south-west, it sweeps round the hill on which stands Dinevwr, or Dinevor castle near Llandilo; decorated in its passage with the numerous seats on the margin it turns to the west to receive the Gwili, near Llangynor; and meeting the tide at Caermarthen, inclines to the south, rolling

its water majestically to the sea, beneath the walls of Llanstephan Castle.

The Loughor, or *Lwghor*, rises in the parish of Llandebie and running southward, after having been replenished by several tributary streams, forms a natural boundary between the counties of Caermarthen and Glamorgan; and laving the ruined walls of Lwgher Castle, widens into a broad estuary, denominated Burry river, which opens into Caermarthen Bay.

The Tawy, commences at the foot of the Black mountains in Brecknockshire, and running to the south, is soon surrounded by coal mines, and passing the copper-works at Morris-town, falls into the Bay of Swansea.

The Nedd, or *Neath*, originates in the same range of mountains, takes nearly a similar course, is equally immersed in Collieries, passes the town of Neath, and falls into Swansea bay, beneath the fine groves of Briton Ferry.

The Avon, rising in Glyn Corwg, runs southwest to Aberavon, where it is environed with coal and copper-works, and three miles below descends over a bar into Swansea Bay.

The Ogmore, which has its source amid the mountainous district on the north-side of Glamorganshire, running southward, is joined by the Lanvy, coming from the North-west; and passing through the town of Bridgend, soon receives the Ewenny from the north-east; and below Merthyr Maur, falls into the British channel.

The Taf, or *Taffe* boasts the same mountain origin as the generality of Welsh rivers, but exceeds most of them in the wildness of its features, and the vagaries of its course. The source is found at the southern base of Tre Beddw mountain, and the general inclination is to the south-east; though forming in its progress numerous and diversified curves. Hastily does it assume the form of a torrent, precipitating its waters over successive cataracts till it becomes a river near Merthyr Tydvill; whence it flows with sweeping rapidity through a valley, surrounded with mountains, whose rocky bases and sides are finely clothed with wood. Then rolling its waters between

impending

impending cliffs it is crossed by the beautiful structure of Pont y prydd. After having been joined by the Rontha and passing under the ruins of Castel coch, it emerges from the confined barrier into a cultivated plain, in which is situated the ancient city of Llandaff; and meeting the tide four miles below Cardiff, forms a port near Penarth point, where it unites with the Bristol channel.

The Raymny, or *Rumney*, has its origin in Glyn Colwyn on the confines of Brecknockshire ,and running in a parallel direction with the Taf, except where it makes a bend to the east near Machen bridge, passes the ruins of Caerphili castle, and flowing through low marshes, falls into the sea about three miles to the north of Penarth point.

The Usk,* rises on the north-side the Black mountain, runs east to Brecknock, where it receives the rapid Honddy, coming from the north; thence inclining to the south-east, and proceeding through a most delicious vale, passes Crickowel, enters Monmouthshire, where it is joined by the Gavenny, near, Abergavenny, flows on to Usk, laves the walls of Caerleon passes Newport, and joined near its mouth by the Elwy and Sorwy, has its confluence in the Severn sea.

The Wye, singularly devious in its course, and peculiarly romantic from the picturesque effect of its attendant scenery, has its rise on the south-side of Plinlimmon, about a mile distance from the source of the Severn. The course is at first south-east to Llangerrig in Montgomeryshire, inclining to the South; and entering Radnorshire, runs to Rhaiader Gwy, where, receiving the Eilon, it becomes the boundary between the counties of Radnor and Brecknock. In this part of its course joined by the Ython from the north; at Builth, by the Crewyn from the west; and as it approaches the Black mountain the Llevenny, issuing out of Llyn Savathan, descends into it by the old town of Talgarth at Aber Llyn. Here taking an easterly direction, its waters are increased by various other streams as

* See Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 19.

as it emerges from the recesses of Wales, and enters the spacious plain of Herefordshire. Passing through which, and the adjoining county, it receives several contributary rivers, as previously described in this work,* and has its confluence with the Severn below Chepstow.

The Severn, the principal river of Wales, and only second to the Thames in England, though having its source nearly close to the Wye, which it receives as a tributary, before its descent to the sea, takes a widely different course, and is intirely distinct in characteristic features. The source is not found, as generally represented by topographical writers, in a *lake*, but in a strong chalybeate *spring*, on the eastern side of Plinlimmon, whence issuing in a powerful stream, it cuts a deep trench, and soon after is joined by the waters of numerous springs which start up in the marshes that expand over the sides and base of the mountain. The character of the Severn does not much assimilate with its alpine origin; for it quickly loses its native rapidity after flowing under the name of Hafrin, through Glyn-Hafren, and being joined by a powerful stream denominated the *Se*, at the town of Llanydloes. The course hitherto eastward, now inclines to the Northward, as it flows through the charming valley, extending from the former place to the handsome town of Newton. Still inclining to the north, the vale through which it passes, expands in front of the hills of Breidden and Moel y Golfa. At Berhiew it receives the Rhiw, and passing beneath the fine groves and park of Powys castle, reaches Welsh Pool; where, from becoming navigable, its commercial importance commences. The waters are confined within deep banks, as it passes through the vale of Montgomery, and receiving the Virnwy, previously augmented by the waters of the Tenad, the Severn leaves the principality, and enters the great plain of Salop, through which it gently glides, till it approaches Shrewsbury. Pervading the whole of Shropshire, and having taken a southerly direction, it nearly equally

* See the Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 435. and Vol. XI. p. 18.

equally dissects the county of Worcester, passes through Gloucestershire, * inclining to the south-west, and at the southern extremity of that county, joined by the Wye, and lower Avon, it meets the sea, forms the Bristol Channel, and revisiting the border of its native country, divides the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Caermarthen and Pembroke, from the opposite shores of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

THE CLIMATE of Wales differs materially from that of the portion of England, lying in the same parallel of latitude; assimilating more with the northern parts of the island. Considerable variations however, are discoverable within the confined limits of this narrow region. In a general view the air is sharp; in the mountainous parts bleak; moderately mild in the vales, and those parts adjacent to the ocean; especially on the southern coast, and particularly in the far-famed vale of Glamorgan. From the greater degrees of cold, prevalent in the Cambrian atmosphere, snow is more frequent in Wales, than in England, lies much deeper, and is seen covering the tops of the highest mountains, for many months in the year. It is observable, when no snow falls, so as to lie, in the tract of country, eastward of the Severn, the sides of the Welsh hills may be seen with a hoary covering for several days together. The wet season in this country is not usually confined to the winter months; for rains are frequent at all times of the year. The quantity of rain, which annually falls in England, according to the experiments of Dr. Hales, † is about twenty-two inches; while the average, that descends in Wales, may be probably placed at thirty-four. Probably, because sufficient accounts of meteorological observations have not been made on this interesting subject, to form data for drawing absolute conclusions. By a comparison of what fell in several different parts of the kingdom

* For its course through this county, see the Beauties, Vol. V. p. 509, and the description of each county it visits with its waters.

† Vegetable Statics.

kingdom, in the year 1798, it appears that the depth at London, Middlesex, was 26,22 inches; at Lancaster, Lancashire, 48,19; and at Kendal, Westmoreland, 60,85.* Indeed from numerous observations, which have been made, respecting this subject, the result has uniformly been, that more falls annually on the western, than, the eastern side, of the kingdom; and most in the mountainous districts: consequently Wales must participate considerably in such an excess of humidity. The following is the quantity of rain, which fell in London, and Brecon, in the year 1802: London 15,12 inches; Brecon 26,25 inches.† Various reasons have been assigned for this difference of the annual descent of vapours in countries, equally posited on the globe. It is generally supposed, that mountains have a peculiar power of attracting clouds and meteors; but this opinion may be left to be enjoyed by those skilled in the doctrine of occult causes. Others assert, that the air in vallies is much heavier than flying vapours; and therefore better fit to support the light air, that floats on the top of mountains. When vapours are put into a violent agitation, and partially condensed by winds, or other external causes, they collect into clouds and mists; and by their own specific gravity fall, till they meet with such air as is able to support them; with this they mix and swim about, being every way dispersed, and the sky becomes serene and clear: but if they do not meet with such air on the tops of hills, then they are condensed into drops, and fall in rain to the ground.‡ The discoveries of modern Chemists have, however, tended greatly to elucidate this subject, long involved in impenetrable obscurity. The experiments made on that subtle all-pervading electric fluid, demonstrably shew, its powerful effects in the various phenomena of the atmosphere, and its wonderful agency in all the diversified operations of nature.

The

* Manuscript remarks on the Weather, by Major Rook.

† Jones's History of Brecknockshire.

‡ See Varenius's Geography, edited by Sir Isaac Newton.

The fact has been ascertained by numerous well-conducted experiments, that all clouds and vapours are formed by the intermediate contact of the electric fluid with watery particles, by which they are kept in a state of suspension, and by the disengagement of the same fluid they become condensed, and fall to the earth in the shape of rain. "There is reason to believe that the mountainous tract of country, which extends the whole length of our western coast, from Cornwall to the north of Scotland, and continues in the same direction through Orkney and Shetland, has a considerable influence on our climate; for this elevated conducting surface must draw off much of the electric matter from the warm humid air of the great western ocean, by our most prevailing winds, the west and south-west; and thus dispose the clouds to precipitate their moisture, on their entrance, more than during their future passage over the island.* And it may be added, that when westerly winds are prevalent, the vapours, before their arrival at the eastern side of the island, pass over Ireland, the climate of which, being naturally humid, from its vicinity to the ocean, and the clouds having so short a portion of sea to pass, the nature of the air is scarcely changed; so that when the wind is in that point, the inhabitants of Wales seldom fail to experience more or less falling weather. Another cause is adduced by the late ingenious naturalist, Mr. White,† for the prodigious condensation of moisture in alpine countries, the dashing of moving clouds against the mountains. In misty days this may be seen in plains; where an eminent tree, by obstructing the mist in its course, will have a much greater quantity of moisture drop from its leaves, than falls at the same time to the ground in its vicinity.

Humid as the climate of Wales must consequently be, from this vaporous state of its atmosphere, yet the air is in general highly salubrious, and the country healthy. Indeed scarcely a cemetery

* Williams's Climate of Great Britain, in which very ingenious work, see more valuable information on this too much neglected subject.

† History of the Parish of Selborne.

cemetery through the principality, but bears some testimony to the longevity of the inhabitants; and many commemorative stones are seen marked with the lengthened age of approximations to a century of years; and even some instances of protractions beyond that extended span of human existence. This circumstance may arise, not only from the sharpness and salubrity of the air, which certainly must be allowed, are greatly contributive to health; but also from the general regular mode of living, suggested by frugality; and the undebilitating viands on which necessity obliges the natives to subsist.

" These ragged rocks, bring plainest people forth,
On mountaine wyld the hardest horse is bred;
Though grasse thereon, be grosse, and little worth,
Sweet is the foode, where hunger so is fed.
On rootes and hearbs, our fathers long did feede;
And neer the skye, growes sweetest fruit indeede.
No ayre so pure and wholesome as the hill,
Both man and beast, delights to be thereon.
The mountayne men, live longer many a yeere,
Than those in vale, in playne, or marrish soyle:
A lustie hart, a cleane complexion cleere
They have on hill, that for hard living toyle.*"

Natural Productions, &c.---Few countries can vie with Cambria in the multifarious variety of its productions, though none have perhaps so long, and undeservedly been neglected. Although the Romans were aware of the comparative value of this part of the island, and converted much of the natural produce to account, yet for centuries was this rich source of national wealth disregarded, the prolific depot of nature despised; and because the casket appeared uncouth and rough, no inquiries were made after the jewels it contained. The arguments adduced by the admirable Swede, for persons examining into the productions of their native soil, apply with peculiar propriety, and force to the people of this country; for whoever has travelled in Wales with an observant eye, will want no inducement to devote himself with ardour to the study of nature, who here appeals

* Churchyard's Worthies of Wales, p. 109, &c.

appears in every variety of form, and clothes herself in all the diversity and richness of the gayest attire. The mountains, whose sides are covered with rare and uncommon vegetables, have their bowels replete with the most useful minerals. The numerous lakes, rivers, and streams teem with almost every kind of fresh-water fish; while the sea environing the coasts, affords a luxuriant addition. Of the feathered tribes, many species, not found in other parts of the island, are inhabitants of this, and some animals rarely to be met with, still frequent the wilds of this diversified country. The *goat* is here found in his ferine state, and is far superior in size, and both in the length and fineness of his hair, to that of most other mountainous countries, "we have seen the horns of a Cambrian he-goat three feet two inches long, and three feet from tip to tip."* Though this useful animal has been long domesticated, yet many of the inhabitants in North Wales, particularly in Caernarvonshire, and Merionethshire, suffer the goats to run in a wild state, to browse the Alpine shrubs, and bound from crag to crag. These they are accustomed to kill during autumn, for the sake of their fat and skins; either by shooting them with bullets, or running them down with dogs, like deer. Thus goat-shooting, and goat-hunting still remain among some of the favourite diversions of the people in Wales. *Roebucks* were anciently numerous, as appears from the laws of Howel Dda; in which the skin of one of these animals, and that of a she goat, were equally appreciated. But of late they have been confined to the most intricate parts of the country, and instances of seeing any extremely rare. *The Pine Martin*, in Welsh called *Bela goed*, inhabits some of the wooded parts of Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire. The beaver, designated in the Welsh laws under the appellation of *Llostlydan*, or the broad-tailed animal, and described by Giraldus, as a native of Wales, is no longer to be found; but the *difrgi*, or *Otter*, is a constant attendant on the piscatory lakes. "The seals are natives of our coasts, and are found most frequently between Llyn in Caernarvonshire, and the

* Pennant's British Zoology, Vol. I. p. 36.

the northern parts of Anglesea: they are seen often towards Carrig y moelrhon, to the west of Bardsey, or Ynis Enlli; and the Skerries, commonly called in the British language, Ynys y moelrhoniad, or seal-island."* Among the land and sea birds Wales has numbers in common with England,† and some peculiar to itself. Of the latter description is the *Falco chryseatos*, or *golden Eagle*, which breeds among the Snowdonian mountains which have thence been supposed to derive their appellation, *Creigiau'r Eryrau* or the eagle rocks.

The *peregrine Falcon*, supposed to be the bird which furnished the amusement of falconry to our ancestors, and formed a sort of criterion for nobility, breeds prolifically among the rocks of Llandidno in Caernarvonshire. The *Smerlus*, or merlin, used in hawking, migrates from Wales to England generally in September. The *Strix otus*, or *long-eared owl*, may almost exclusively be claimed as a native of this country. *Moor-fowl*, or *Grous*, invite numerous sportsmen during the shooting season, to visit the alpine wilds of Cambria. The *Rallus Crex*, or *Water Rail*, is a constant visiter of Anglesea, early in the spring. And the island of Priestholm may be said to receive an annual visitation from the immense flocks of the *Alca arctica*, or *Puffin*, about the same time of the year. The *Colymbus troile*, or *Guillemot*, during the winter, frequents the Welsh coast, as does the *Larus marinus*, or *black-backed Gull*. That rare aquatic bird the *Pelecanus graculus*, or the *Shag*, has been sometimes known to make his appearance on the shore near Holyhead. The *Corvus Caryocatactes*, or *Nutcracker*, afforded a solitary instance of his appearance, one having been shot in Flintshire. With respect to *maritime* fish, as migratory animals, though the coasts of Wales are visited by a vast variety, yet it does not possess an exclusive right upon the basis of locality; yet Mr. Pennant claims, as Welsh fish, the Beaumaris shark; the trifurcated hake; the gattorumaris

* Pennant's Brit. Zool. Vol. I. p. 140.

† Perhaps the greater part in the list of English birds, with the exception of the charming songstress of the night, the *nightingale*, who is never heard to chant her plaintive song amidst the mountains of Wales.

Gathurigin and the trimaculated with the striped and gibbous wrasse. Among the numerous fish, which abound in the rivers of Wales, in addition to those generally known in England, may be noticed the *crooked Perch* found in Llyn Raithlyn, Merioneth hire; the *Salmo erux*, or *Sewin*, frequenting several rivers in this country. The *deformed Trout*, taken in the river Eynion near Machynlleth, and elsewhere.* The *Samlet*, frequent in the upper part of the Severn and the Wye; the *Torgoch*, or red Char; the *gilt* or *silver Char*; and the *Salmo lavaretus*, or *Gwiniad*. Some of these however are not exclusively peculiar to the principality, but are found in some of the rivers in Scotland, and in the lakes of Westmoreland and Cumberland. Respecting the VEGETABLE productions, so profuse has nature been in the display of her variegating powers, and so numerous are the rare and curious plants in this alpine region, that to particularize them, would be to compose a botanical nomenclature. Suffice it to notice a *few*, as specimens of the whole, referring the reader to authors, who have treated particularly on the subject.

Among a few, the habitats of which are almost exclusively confined to Wales, is one of the most beautiful indigenous plants of Great Britain, Pulmonaria maritima, Sea Bugloss; Cerastium latifolium, woolly mouse-ear Chickweed; Silene acaulis, moss Campion; Saxifraga nivalis, clustered-flowered alpine Saxifrage; Geum rivale, red water Avens; Dryas octopetala, mountain Avens; the elegant little plant Thalictrum alpinum, alpine meadow Rue; Bartsia viscosa, yellow marsh Eye-bright; Sisymbrium monense, isle of Man Rocket; Hieracium alpinum, alpine Hawkweed; Serratula alpina, alpine Sawwort; Jasione montana, scabious Rampion; Ophrys corallorhiza, coral-rooted Ophrys; the singular Dortmanna lobelia, water Gladiole; Chara flexilis, smooth Chara; Veronica hybrida, Welsh Speedwell; Valeriana rubra, red Valerian; Festuca vivipara, viviparous fescue Grass; the handsome Lavatera

* Upon this curious phenomenon, see a dissertation on some of the Cambrian fish, by the Honourable Daines Barrington, published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1767.

vatera arborea, sea tree Mallow; Lathyrus latifolius, broad-leaved everlasting Pea; Solidago virga-aurea Cambrica, Welsh Golden rod; Osmunda regalis, flowering Fern; Isoetes lacustris, Quill wort; Cheiraunthus sinautus, Sea Stock; Trollius Europæus, Globe-flower; Rosa spinosissima, burnet Rose; Pyrus torminalis, wild service Pear tree, Gentiana pneumonanthe marsh Gentian; Campanula latifolia, giunt Bell-flower; Viola lutea, yellow Violet; Eriopherum polystachion, Broad-leaved Cotton-grass; Narthecium ossifragum, bone-breaking Asphodel: Scilla verna, vernal Squill; Triglochin maritimum, Sea Arrow-grass; Rubus chamæmorus, Cloud-berry; Pavaver Cambricum, Yellow Poppy; Glaucium luteum, horned Poppy; Iberis nudicaulis, naked-stalked Candy-tuft; Brassica oleracea, Sea cabbage; Carduus heterophyllus, melancholy Thistle; Zanichellia palustris, horned Pond-weed; Betula nana, dwarf Birch; the odoriferous-rooted Rhodiola rosea, Rose-wort; the elegant Chlora perfoliata, yellow perfoliate century; the beautifully trailing Arbutus uva ursi, Bear berries; and the surprising vegetable automaton the Ruppia maritima, sea Ruppia.

The *mineral* productions of Wales form the most interesting part of the subject, and furnish an inexhaustible source, at least for ages to come, of profitable investigation to individuals, and of national wealth. Previously however to giving a few general remarks on the mineralogy of the country, it will be advantageous both in this respect, and in the more detailed account of particular mines, that will accompany the local descriptions, to delineate the structure of these mountainous tracts, within the viscera of which the greater part of the subterraneous treasures are included. The mountains and hills of Cambria may be separated into three distinct classes, viz. primitive, secondary, and derivative, which in a general view may also be distinguished by the peculiarities of their form, as well as their relative position. The primitive granite mountains consist of craggy steep rocks, tending in the ascent more or less towards an acute or slender pointed summit, the loftiest mountains are centrically situated in the chain, which commencing

mencing and terminating in abrupt precipices with the insulated peaks, that interrupt the general outline, form a striking and distinctive character. The secondary mountains, chiefly composed of schistose substances, range next in the scale, and are distinguishable from the former by their inferior height, the evenness and squareness of the individual links which compose the chain, and by the easy waving, though varied, line of the general contour: instances of which are conspicuous in the Ferwyn and Breidden mountains previously described. The derivative, or calcareous and silicious hills, range considerably lower than the secondary or slate mountains, usually rising by a gradual ascent at one extremity, and terminating abruptly at the other. The limestone hills frequently assume a pyramidical shape, while the ridges of the sand rocks, and banks, are broader and rounder than those of lime. These however often trap into each other, and then little dissimilarity is discoverable in their form.

"The Welsh primitive mountains in mass contain no metals, copper is however found in several in the hornstone *stratified* mountains, of which the Parys mine, and those at Llanberis and Pont-Aberglaslyn are examples. In these mines the ore is for the most part yellow, sulphuret of copper, the green and blue malachites or carbonates of copper are found in lime stone, as at Ormes-head and Llanymynech hill; nor have I heard any instance of these two last mines furnishing copper in any state but that of Carbonate. Carbonated copper is also found in the calcareous cement of sand rocks.

"Lead and calamine I believe are not to be found in North Wales, in any of the primitive stratified rocks. These metals are most frequently found in slate, with a matrix however of calcareous Spar, as in the vale of Conway at Llangynog and the Snailbeach mines: they are frequently also found in limestone, as at Llanymynech, and Holywell. Respecting the formation of the above mentioned metals, it is not easy to give a plausibly probable opinion; it appears however, that carbonate of copper is of considerably later formation than the

sulphuret, the former probably originating from the decomposition of the latter, and depriving its acid from the carbonate of lime in which it is found. It is not likely that the lead found in limestone was originally formed elsewhere, because lead even in slate rocks, lies in a matrix of calcareous spar; and especially because it does not form thin strata between the strata of lime, as is the case with copper; but it traverses in a stream the several strata without any alteration in the line of its direction; to which may be added, that sulphuret of lead is the general state in which the metal is found, both in the slate rocks and limestone, the carbonate being equally rare in both situations.

There is no coal found in North Wales between the primitive mountains and the slates: a very small quantity is procured between the slates and the limestone; but by far the most extensive beds are between the limestone and the sand rocks as about Wrexham and Coalbrook dale, or between these last and the alluvial hills as round to Wolverhampton"*.

The strata generally most productive of the metallic ores are limestone. Most species of whinstones, or the argillaceous mountain rocks, of which there are many varieties appearing in thick, thin, and mediate strata; some of these rocks are moderately, and others exceedingly hard. They assume various colours, though principally one or other of the numerous shades of grey. Several rich and valuable mines are however discovered in granite or moor-stone mountains. These three orders or classes of rocks, with their concomitant strata, are usually intersected by mineral fissures, and contain the largest quantity of mineral substances, and metallic ores. Limestone is a very common repository of the precious and useful metals in many parts of England, particularly in Derbyshire. In Scotland the most productive veins of metal are found in granite rocks. But of all classified strata in which the richest mineral veins have been discovered the indurated argillaceous mountain rocks are the most prolific, and extensive,

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c. p. 223.

tensive. Many of the mines in North Wales, nearly the whole of the numerous rich and valuable lead mines in the county of Cardigan, and most of the mines in other parts of South Wales, are found in this kind of matrix, or strata.

The principal subterraneous substances, produced in Wales, may be divided into three classes viz. metalline, mineral, and lapideous: and the places where they are dug receive the distinctive appellations of mines, pits, or quarries.

Silver is obtained in considerable quantities, though not at present found in what may be exclusively denominated silver mines. Cwmsymlog mine in Cardiganshire consists of silver ore, lead ore, and quartz: which from the rich produce of the more precious metal, formerly obtained by Sir Hugh Middleton, received the appellation of the Welsh Potosi. Daren vawr, Daren vach, Goginan Cwm Evyn, and Mynydd bach contain similar substances to those of Cwmsymlog, though not equally productive in silver. Llanvair is at present the richest mine worked in the principality; comprising silver, lead, quartz, spar with a small portion of copper, and yields about one sixth of lead ore. About sixty to eighty ounces of silver are extracted from a ton of ore, and twelve hundred and a half weight of lead.

Copper. This very useful metal, which was known and properly appreciated by the Romans while in possession of Britain, is abundant through different parts of the island, but was not an object of commercial investigation till within about two centuries ago; nor in Wales to any considerable purpose till the middle of the last. The copper works of the Romans lay for ages, neglected, and to the public and enterprising spirit of Nicolas Bailey, the country owes the revival of research for this valuable metal. Parys mountain in Anglesea consists wholly of copper, either in a state of native copper, sulphate, black ore, or malachite: the matrix is a dark grey chertz, and the superstratum aluminous slate. Though the ores obtained from this and the adjoining Mona mine, are not equally rich in metal with those found in Cornwall; yet from the fa-

cility, and consequently small expence at which they are obtained, the mines form a prolific source of wealth to the proprietors.

The copper ore found at Llanberris in Caernarvonshire is of a very superior quality to that of Parys mountain, yielding from eight to ten per cent weight of metal. This ore subsists in the primitive stratified rocks, and generally in a matrix of schistose hornblende, or quartz. The same mountainous ridge, consisting principally of whin and hornstone, divided by the immense chasm over which is thrown the bridge called Pontaberglaslyn, contains another copper mine, producing ore similar in quality to that of Llanberris; and it is highly probable the whole of this district is pregnant with copper. Some copper, but in no great quantity, is procured from two mines near the summit of a mountain, which forms the promontory called the Ormes-head in the parish of Llandudno, the eastern boundary of Beaumaris bay. The ore is malachite, or green carbonate of copper, and lies between the limestone strata, at the depth of fifty feet.

Escair vraith mine in Cardiganshire consists of copper ore, spar, quartz, and a substance, termed by the miners gozin, which forms an envelope to the quartz. The ore contains eight parts quartz, one of gozin and one twentieth copper. Several trials for working this mine were made at different times, but none succeeded till the year 1773, when the vein of copper was first discovered; and about twenty tons of ore were raised; but though the ore in the year 1791 sold as high as 25l. per ton, yet the valuable concern has been for several years entirely neglected. In Llanymynech rock Montgomeryshire, consisting of limestone, are shallow pits, the remains of Roman copper works, and numerous pieces of copper lie loose about the surface. Indeed the whole mass of the hill seems more or less impregnated with this metal, for wherever it is uncovered, evident cupreous marks are clearly visible.

Lead is a metal of almost universal conveniency, and for which this island was always famous. Lead mines at a very early period in the history of Britain were esteemed what they

they are actually at the present period a grand source of national wealth. These were probably worked by the Britons, but certainly by the Romans; for one of their most learned writers * informs us, the produce was so abundant, that it was deemed necessary to form regulations for the trade, and fix a ratio respecting the quantity to be raised. The ore appears in numerous forms, and thence receives different appellations Sometimes from the colour, it is termed grey, blue, or white ore; from the texture, springy, cross-grained, or steel-grained ore; and from the position in the mine, flat plated, or bellied ore; but the most common sort is the cubic, diced, or potters ore; so called from its general use in the glazing various kinds of earthern ware.

This metal is found in a variety of places through Wales, but particularly in the counties of Flint, Caernarvon, Montgomery, Caermarthen, and Cardigan; indeed the latter may be considered as the most extensive and richest mining field in Britain. A mineral tract stretches from Pen yr allt or Bryn digri in a line to the western borders of the parish of Holywell in Flintshire, and is known under the name of the Whiteford rake. "The ores differ in quality, the lamellated or common kind, usually named potter's ore, yields from fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred and a quarter of lead, from twenty hundred of the ore: but the last produce is rare †." The veins are found either in chert or limestone rocks, and some of the best ore has been dug at the depth of ninety yards. In this tract several levels have been driven and shafts sunk, and lead continues to be obtained in very considerable quantities. Between Gwydir and Capel Cerrig in Caernarvonshire, within an extensive dip between lofty mountains, are very extensive lead works. The surrounding rocks consist of slate, bituminous shale, and trap or whin; the matrix of the ore quartz, and calcareous spar; the product lead and calamine, mixed with iron ochre, and a small quantity of copper pyrites: these dif-

* Plinii Hist. Nat. Lib. xxxiv. cap. 17.

† Pennant's History of the parishes of Whiteford and Holywell, p. 124.

ferent substances are so blended, that in the same specimen a variety of them may be found. The pits are very numerous, and the ore principally lies about twelve feet beneath the surface.

The great lead mine in the parish of Llangynnog, called Craig-ymwyn, which formerly afforded to the owner of Powis castle an annual revenue of several thousand pounds, is situated in the mountainous ridge, that divides the vales of Rhaiader and Tanad. The vein of ore in this mine was three yards and a half thick, worked to the depth of a hundred yards, previous to its being inundated with water, and yielded annually four thousand tons; which at seven pounds per ton, would produce a clear profit of twenty thousand pounds*. It has lately been drained of the water by driving a level into the hill, and again worked by a company of mining adventurers. There are other small mines, belonging to independent proprietors, at a short distance from the village of Llangynnog. The rock in which the shafts are sunk is a coarse slate, abounding with white amorphous quartz, that contains considerable quantities of lead and calamine.

In Caermarthenshire the lead mines in the vicinity of Llandovery, formerly supplied the smelting works near Caermarthen: but they have of late been entirely neglected. The district of this county adjacent to Cardiganshire evidently abounds with various mineral substances, among which, from the shape of the hills, and the nature of the strata, lead is probably the most predominant. But Cardiganshire may be denominated the region of lead mines, the whole country apparently having its rocks cemented together with veins of this metal. For a vast extent the land is excavated, and the surface covered with the openings of mines at present worked, or the vestiges of numerous others, that have furnished their subterraneous treasures to remote generations. Lead ore is procured from the mines previously noticed, as producing silver.

The

* Pennant's Tour in North Wales.

The principal lead mines in this county are Cwmystwyth, Llewenneg, Inys Cynvelin, Penybanch, Bron-y-goch, Llwyn pawch, Gregwnion, Gellan Erin, and Nant-y Crier. Besides these, there are many of minor consideration, some of which are worked with varied success, and others that have been abandoned as unprofitable speculations. The ore found in most of the Cardiganshire mines is nearly of a similar nature, consisting chiefly of lead, mixed with quartz and spar, accompanied frequently with quantities of an ore of zinc, denominated by the miners, from its dark appearance, *black jack*. This, which formerly was appropriated for the repair of the roads, has lately been discovered to be a valuable article, constituting an excellent flux for brass; and mixed in due proportions with copper, making a hard handsome metal, similar to the orichalcum of the ancient Romans.

Iron the most useful, and, through the wise distribution of Providence, the most common, of all metals is plentifully dispersed over the British isles; and Wales is not deficient in this particular. Yet notwithstanding the mountains of this country are full of iron stone, it was not till within about half a century, that the public attention was turned to this inexhaustible source of internal wealth. Iron is most abundant in South Wales, though evident marks of its existence may be traced in North Wales *. Several species of it have been discovered, viz. hematites, kidney ore, or compact brown iron stone; grey ore or black iron stone; bog ore or swampy iron stone, and a variety of sulphurated and arsenical ores, which class under the general denomination of pyrites; but the kidney and grey ores are the most frequently found. The principal iron works are Merthyr Tydvil, Aberdare, and Cyfartha in Glamorganshire; and the Union, Llanelly, Beaufort works and Hirwin furnace in Brecknockshire.

Coal. It has generally been remarked, that wherever iron is discoverable, coal is not far distant; either under laying it, or

* Iron has lately been procured; and works erected in the vicinity of Ruabon in Denbighshire.

or lying in collateral strata. This eligible substitute for ligneous fuel, is found in every county of Wales, except Cardigan, Merioneth, and Caernarvon, and perhaps time will evince, that those are not destitute of this primary article of convenience. In North Wales the principal coal works are in the vicinity of Caergwrle, at Bagilt near Holywell, and Bychton and Mostyn in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire; near Chirk, Ruabon, and Wrexham, in the county of Denbigh; at several places along the line of the canal in Montgomeryshire, and Maltraeth, Anglesea. So plentiful are coals in the four southermost counties of the principality, that it is only to sink in certain directions, to be assured of ultimate success. The coal sometimes underlays the calcareous strata, or in the miners phrase, has a limestone roof; but more frequently it is found on the northern or southern side of a limestone ridge; and when a tract of low land is included between two such ridges, it may be inferred, that coal lies beneath. Two parallel lines of calcareous strata extend through South Wales in an easterly direction, from St. George's channel across the whole country. These are accompanied by two lines of coal. Both are not uniformly visible together, but often where the coal grasses or appears near the surface, the limestone dips, or inclines towards the centre of the earth, and vice versa. Upon the first or upper line, coals have been found in different points, viz. at Johnston, Picton, Jeffreston, and Begeley, Pembrokeshire. Thence keeping on the southern side of the limestone ridge it crosses the Towy, forming the bar at the mouth of that river; and passing through the upper part of Caermarthenshire*, Brecknockshire, and Monmouthshire, crosses the Severn to the collieries of Kingswood, near Bristol.

The second or lower line commences near Williamston in Pembrokeshire, and parallel with the limestone takes the water beyond the coal works at Sandersfoot in the bay of Tenby; then crossing the peninsula of Gower it again dips in Swansea bay, re-appears

* The coal pits near Llangyndeyrn in this county point out the bearing of this first line.

re-appears near Kinfig in Glamorganshire, passes Caerphili castle, visits Newport, Monmouthshire, where numerous collieries are worked; and crossing the Severn sea is again discoverable in the same direction at the coal works of Paulton and Radstock in the county of Somerset. On the same bearing these lines might be further traced both in an easterly and westerly direction, and will serve as a clue to other lines of coal ground in the stratified tracts throughout the kingdom.

Almost all the varieties of coal are produced in Wales. What is called the *Newcastle* coal, from large quantities being dug in the vicinity of that town, and carried coastwise for the supply of the metropolis, is found in several parts of the principality. This is a caking coal, of a fat bituminous or resinous quality, which melts in the fire, and when thoroughly heated runs together in one mass, burning to a cinder with a thick fuliginous smoke; and, if the best sort, produces but a small quantity of ashes.

A second kind is the *rock coal*, which is a free coal of various degrees of strength and hardness, of a good black colour, though not so bright and glossy as the Newcastle coal; produces more ashes, and does not cake or cohere during combustion.

Stone or *splent coal* is of a laminated or slaty structure, burning freely with a strong flame and much smoke; is remarkably hard, splits easily into thin broad flags, but is broken with difficulty across the bed of the strata, except at what are termed, the natural transverse cutters. This species is ponderous, very tenacious of the igneous principle, and the best for culinary and other domestic uses.

Cannel, or parrot coal,* is of a fine black colour and a smooth uniform

* The learned Dr. Davies observes, that the name is derived from the British word *canwyll* a candle, which the flame afforded by the ignition of this kind of coal amply supplies. This is the lapis ampelitis or vine stone of the ancients, which name it obtained from the reputed property of its ashes being an effectual antidote against the disease of vines, occasioned by certain worms that frequently infest them; and it is still used on many parts of the continent, as the most esteemed manure or rather top-dressing for vine-yards.

uniform texture, has a considerable hardness and breaks in any direction. This species of coal, when free from heterogeneous mixtures, is of comparatively small specific gravity, makes a chearful fire, burns with a strong flame, and emits little smoke. Some varieties of it are so fine and solid in the contexture, as to be capable of being turned in the lathe, and formed into various utensils, toys, and trinkets, as it is susceptible of a very high polish, and leaves no stain upon the fingers.

Culm, or *blind coal*, in England denominated Welsh coal, because almost peculiarly the produce of Wales, is of a fine glossy black colour and a bright metalline appearance. This is a very singular species of coal, producing neither smoke nor flame in burning. Though it is not easily kindled, yet when thoroughly ignited it burns a long time with a clear, powerful, glowing heat, similar to charcoal; being very durable and like that, during combustion, emits a strong disagreeable suffocating effluvia. This coal is very tender, and generally breaks small in working and carriage; but possesses nothing of the cohering quality, produces a small quantity of ashes; and the property of burning without smoke renders it fit for drying malt, hops, and other purposes where coak or charcoal would be necessary. A remarkable phenomenon arises from the combustion of this species of coal. When a quantity of culm has been some time ignited, and after every particle of it has been burning with a clear glowing heat, if the fire be extinguished or suffered to go out for want of air, what remains in the grate or furnace bears no pyritous marks. Even the surfaces of the remaining small pieces, which remain unconsumed, retain the same glossy black colour, the same texture and bright appearance as at first, and partly resemble some other species of flaming and fuliginous coal.

The schistose mountains of Wales afford another substance if not of equal importance, yet of general utility. *Slates*, customarily denominated Cornish tile, because originally procured from Cornwall, constitute an elegant roofing far superior in cheapness to that of lead, for which it is latterly become a very

common

common substitute. Long was the trade in slates confined to Cornwall and Westmoreland, but now both North and South Wales furnish slate equal in quality to any brought from either of those counties. The quarries are very numerously scattered over the country, but the principal are those of the Rheidiol near Aberystwith, Cardiganshire; Llangynnog, Montgomeryshire; and the extensive ones in Snowdonia, Caernarvonshire. Those at the former place produce specimens of the large and coarsest kind of slate, which lie in compact masses, resembling flag stone, of a rough texture, but separating easily into large plates. The slate of Llangynnog rock divides into large plates, is not quite of so coarse a quality, and forms a very profitable building article. These quarries, Mr. Pennant observes*, yielded from November 1775 to the same month in 1776, 904,000, which were sold from six to twenty shillings, per thousand. The Snowdonian slates are generally of a very fine grain, a beautiful blue colour, and when quarried, separate into exceeding thin laminæ; properties, which render them peculiarly eligible for handsome roofing, and manufacturing into writing slates. The quantities procured from this district has of late years been so great, that the export trade of the article only, has converted a small insignificant creek into Port Penhryn. On viewing these different apertures of the schistose mountains a striking geological fact will result, correspondent with the principle of uniform, though unequal declivity. The slates it is observable are always coarsest in their texture on the northern or north-western sides of the ridge, and less so on the south and south-western sides; becoming gradually finer, as they approximate the limestone hills.

Numerous quarries of other valuable stones are opened in various places, which will be duly noticed in the description of their respective localities; viz. different kinds of marble fit for monuments, columns, chimney-pieces, and other ornamental sculpture and masonry; serpentine, and other species of hone stone; chert or petrosilex, and pure quartz, for the use of

* Tour in Wales

of the potteries. Nor should that very rare and curious substance be forgotten which furnishes the asbestus, a substance indestructible by fire, found on the shores of Anglesea.

In adverting to these diversified subterraneous treasures, the mind is naturally induced to enquire the era of their discovery, and the mode of their realization. Though it is probable the early Britons were not ignorant of the use of metals, yet they doubtless owed much to their first invaders, respecting minerals, and the working of mines. Copper appears to have been an object of pursuit with the Romans on their arrival in this island, remains of smelting furnaces having been discovered, and cakes of that metal found, marked with Roman letters, and the imperial stamp. Calamine, the *cadmia* of the ancients must also have been known to them, because essential to the making brass, of which most of the instruments they used in this country, appear to have been formed. Lead mines were also worked by that people, and probably silver extracted from the ore, traces of which have been observed both in North and South Wales; especially in the counties of Flint and Cardigan. Iron was known to the natives, previous to the Roman invasion, and a considerable iron manufacture was established in this country, according to the testimony of Strabo, anterior to the reign of Tiberius. The iron money, which constituted their circulating medium, as observed by Julius Cæsar, affords a demonstrative proof, that they were not unacquainted with smelting, forging, &c. The iron trade was doubtless considerably extended, and improved by the superior skill of the Romans, but they were not in possession of the art of extracting all the metal from the ore, as is evident by the heaps of cinders still lying near their ancient bloomeries. Coals Mr. Pennant * supposes were also known prior to the arrival of the Romans; from the Britons having a name for them, in their language, *glo*, and the circumstance of a flint axe, a common instrument of the aboriginal natives, having been found stuck in

* Tour in Wales.

in a vein of coal at Craig y parc in Monmouthshire. Of this early discovery little can be said, because little is known. Hume refers the epoch to the thirteenth century. By an extent issued in the twenty third year of king Edward the first, however it appears, that Mostyn colliery in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire, was worked during that monarch's reign*: and in the twelfth century coal is mentioned in the Acta regia both of England and Scotland †. But allowing the discovery to be no further remote, the progress of its introduction to general use was very slow, even after wood became a scarce and expensive article of fuel. The smoke arising from *mineral* coal, as it was then termed, was by many deemed very pernicious to health, so late as the sixteenth century; for it is reported, that the lord chancellor Burleigh, in the reign of Elizabeth, was accustomed to have the coals for the use of his house, brought coastwise from Pembrokeshire; because they emitted less smoke than those imported from the north of England.

The Britons, as previously observed, understood the use of metals, and were further instructed in the arts of mining and metallurgy by the intelligent Romans; but after the departure of the latter, self preservation necessarily would monopolize their attention, and peaceful science be obliged to succumb under the devastating hand of war. Yet their mines were not wholly neglected, for it was probably by means of this subterraneous wealth, that the Welsh were enabled to support against the English an unequal warfare for so long a time. During centuries after the conquest, in England the crown asserted its exclusive right to all mines and minerals. No person could search for ore unless empowered by a royal grant; and the conditions imposed were at the discretion of the monarch. Edward the first, on his effecting the conquest of Wales, extended his mining authority over that country, directing

* Pennant's Hist. of Whiteford and Holywell.

† Arnot's History of Edinburgh.

directing by mandate the tithe of ore, dug in the Welsh mines, to be paid to the respective churches in the vicinity. Nor does it appear, that the proprietor of the land on which a mine was opened, had any share in the profits, till the reign of Henry the sixth: when the duke of Bedford obtained a lease for ten years of all the gold and silver mines within the kingdom, on condition of paying a tenth part of the proceeds to the church, a fiftieth to the king, and a twentieth to the owner of the land. This grant extended to all other mines, containing gold and silver; for by the convenient chicanery of the law, all mines producing the least particle of either of those precious metals, was, by constructive reasoning, made to come within the grant. This was a great discouragement to mining in general, and a cruel hardship upon individuals. Nor was the science of mineralogy, or the art of mining likely to make much progress in a period, when miracles were admissible not only in religion, but the arts: when the *transmutation of metals* obtained the same implicit credit, as the transubstantiation of the sacramental elements; and the transmuters were shielded by royal protection. Queen Elizabeth, however, adopted a sound policy in this respect. Following the advice of her council, she sent over for some experienced Germans, to conduct the business of the mines, as well as smelting the ores and refining the metals. By her letters patent she granted licence to Thomas Thurland, and Daniel Houghsetter, and their heirs for ever, to search for mines of gold, silver, &c. &c. through several specified English counties, and the whole principality of Wales. A year afterwards she made two more grants to Cornelius Devosse and Christopher Shutz. These patentees, by virtue of the powers annexed to the several grants, divided part of their tenure into shares for sale: and they, with the purchasers of such shares, were incorporated by the style of the "governor assistants and commonality of the mines royal." Under this company the celebrated Sir Hugh Middleton, farmed the principal silver and lead mines in Cardiganshire, the profits of which enabled him to undertake that extraordinary effort of human ingenuity

and perseverance, the new river, which partially su
water the city of London. But though the fou
thus laid for the present success in mining and min
which are dependent, many of those numerous m
that give Britain such a decided superiority in forei
yet very little of much importance was effected, ti
of Charles the first. According to the testimony o
the lead mines in Flintshire were not worked befo
1698, when Dr. Wright and his associated adven
blished a smelting house at Halkin. The subseq
sion of mining concerns was encouraged by the repeal
mer restrictive statutes, and the enactme
King William and Mary, that persons ha
tin, lead, &c. shall enjoy the same althoug
mines; the king having the right of pre-empti
certain regulated prices *, except in Devonshire a

AGRICULTURE, BRIDGES, ROADS, and CANALS. W
neral view may be considered a century, at least, be
land as to its state of *agriculture*. The Welsh farmer stun
on the very threshold. His mode of ploughing bears no relation, either to the nature of the soil or the seed to be committed to it. The course of crops also is violently outrageous in its demands on the pabula of the land. Wheat is not generally grown, and other white crops, such as barley and oats, succeed each other in rotation, till nature, wearied with the burthen, refuses to bear it any longer: and tired of the numerous progeny she has unreasonably been forced to support, evinces her inability to afford them any further sustenance; and the fields, thus naturally, laid down to grass exhibit a dreary aspect of dwindling vegetation, as disgraceful to the cultivator, as it is lamentable to the beholder. After thus depriving the glebe of all its strength, the Welsh farmer takes no effectual steps to re-

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* On condition, that there was paid to the owners within thirty days, after the ore should be raised, and before removed, for copper ore, washed and made merchantable, 16l. per ton; for lead 9l. and for tin or iron 2l.

pair the loss, being equally ignorant of the means of amelioration, as of the derivable benefits. Lime is generally had recourse to, and if this catholican fail, he has arrived at his ne plus ultra. Marl is seldom sought for, and the plaister stone or alabaster, so successfully used as a manure in America, is entirely neglected in Wales. The general want both of upper, as well as under, draining is too obvious. For lack of which large tracts of fine levelled land, can only, in wet seasons, be partially brought into cultivation. Those grand conservatories of grass for spring feed, water-meads, so essential in a breeding district, are scarcely known; although in this country nature has formed many; and pointed out numerous facilities of making more. Weeds are suffered to increase, because they are considered serviceable to the future ley; by which half the crop is generally stifled or deprived of its requisite nourishment. The implements of husbandry are rude, and ill calculated for making a progress in agricultural amelioration: and the want of convenient outhouses forms a considerable drawback upon the profits of the farmer. Many of the errors so visible in the agriculture of this country, evidently arise from the ignorance, prejudice, indolence, and poverty of the tenants; but other causes are attributable to the proprietors of estates. One is, not granting proper leases, the lands for the most part being let from year to year. A still more injudicious custom, is the setting farms by auction.

Though this is the general state of agriculture through the principality yet striking, and honourable instances occur in divers places of more rational conduct. Many gentlemen are setting the example of the most improved practice, and manifesting that, lands in Wales with similar treatment, are capable of becoming equally productive with those of England. And what augurs well, as to future improvements is, that in almost every county has been formed an association of intelligent agriculturists, for the purposes of improving the country by the introduction and encouragement of a better system of husbandry. These, which have already produced the most salutary effects

effects will be duly noticed in the agricultural detail of each county. And a fine theatre is opened for the display of their labours in this grand work of amelioration, for, in addition to the slovenly state of farming, and the unproductive condition of estates in general, there are in Wales more than 150,000 acres of waste lands; part of which would make excellent upland pasture, part is capable of being converted into excellent arable; and a large portion well adapted for planting to advantage with timber trees. But so multifarious are the soils in different parts of this diversified country, so variable the practices of the several districts, and even of different places in the same; that no general account, however copious, would be adequate to convey any tolerably accurate view of this interesting subject. The reader must therefore be referred to the remarks which will occur in local description.

From the nature, as well as the number of the rivers in Cambria, the erection of *bridges*, must have excited, at an early period, the attention of the Welsh. For many of them are too deep to be fordable, some subject to such inundating bodies of water issuing from the mountains, during rains, as to be for days together impassable, at the usual fordable places: and others again flow through such narrow glens, and deep ravines, as to exhibit insurmountable barriers to the traveller, without the aid of what may be termed *pendent* bridges; that is, such as are thrown from crag to crag, at a prodigious height above the water. The difficulty of erecting such, has induced the vulgar to attribute their construction to infernal aid. Of this kind, is the bridge, or rather two bridges, on the Mynach, near Hafod in Cardiganshire, called Pont ar Mynach, forming a pass over an awful yawning chasm, through which the river rolls its waters to the Rheidiol. Another, but not equally exalted high in air, is called Pont-aber-glas-lyn, that forms a communication over a narrow defile in the mountainous ridge, separating the alpine counties of Caernarvon and Merioneth. Numerous bridges, consisting of a single arch each, of which number, is the celebrated and justly admired Pont y prydd, bestriding the boiste-

rous Taffe in Glamorganshire, are scattered over the country, and give to its scenery additional diversity and beauty. For almost the whole of this description in Wales, are formed of a small segment of a large circle, and from the different sweeps they take, according to the length of the respective chords, produce a countless variety. Among those bridges, composed of more than one arch, the triangular-arched bridge over the river Dee at Llangollen, is curious for its mode of construction, and great antiquity. The bridge across the Conwy near Llanrwst is an elegant structure, and does credit to the taste, as well as skill of the architect, Inigo Jones. The bridge of five arches at Bangor iscoed, in Flintshire, is a fine specimen of pontic masonry. The town of Caermarthen is entered by a long ancient handsome bridge; but the stupendous aqueduct, by which the continuation of the Ellesmere canal is carried over the river Dee at Pont Cyssyllte, between Llangollen, and Chirk in Denbighshire, is the chef d'oeuvre of this species of architecture; that can only be exceeded in grandeur or utility, by the projected bridge over the Menai straits, by which it is proposed to form a land communication between the county of Caernarvon and the island of Anglesea. This is an undertaking, which will be truly worthy the enterprising spirit of British genius. Though long famed for its bridges, yet Wales was nearly an utter strange, to what in most countries occasions their erection, *good roads*. Till within a few years past, this country merited the description, given by Johnstone in his Idler, to the Isle of Wight, "the land of pathless deserts." Except the two great mail-roads, forming the communication with the north and south of Ireland, by way of Milford and Holyhead, whence the packets sail to that country, scarcely a road could be found, calculated for the passing of carriages. To this essential point for profit, convenience and comfort, the great proprietors have of late years laudably directed their attention, and with the most beneficial effect. The country may now be traversed in almost every direction, and few towns are devoid of the accommodating vehicle, a post chaise. Many of

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the roads of the interior are narrow, and from the nature of the country, abound with frequent and long ascents and descents; but they are no longer what formerly they were, merely land-flood gullies, or narrow hollows, down the centre of which the waters flowed to the great annoyance and frequent peril of the traveller. Under the auspices of the public spirited nobleman, the late lord Penrhyn, a grand road has been cut through the immense range of lofty mountains, denominated Snowdonia, by which a fine extensive communication has been opened between the internal parts of North Wales and the coast,; and the great thoroughfare from London to Dublin by way of Holyhead diminished in length, compared with the former one, by way of Shrewsbury and Conway, twenty-five miles. Numerous roads have been widened, shortened, and otherwise ameliorated by the addition of drains, arches, bridges, &c. to the great accommodation of travellers, and general benefit of the inhabitants. Already has the country begun to experience the advantages by new communications having been opened for the produce of the interior, in the reduction of the rate of carriage, and easy access thus afforded for the postage of ponderous articles to the sea coast, or to the intercommunications with the navigable rivers, those water-ways of the Chinese, *inland canals*.

Bad roads, and a difficulty of communication between places distant from each other, occasion a kind of sterility in a country, and render most things much dearer and scarcer than they would otherwise be; and a nation placed in the most favourable climate, and blest with the most fertile soil, if it have bad roads, and be without the convenient modes of conveyance, will not be so rich and affluent as the less favoured in climate and soil, which possesses excellent roads and canals, supposing the genius and industry of both nations to be the same.

"Good roads, canals, and navigable rivers," observes an intelligent writer, "by diminishing the expence of carriage, put the remote parts of a country more upon a level with those in the neighbourhood of large towns; they are, on that account,

the greatest of all improvements. They encourage the cultivation of remote parts, which must always be the most expensive circle of the country, and thereby rents are much improved. They are advantageous to towns by breaking up the monopoly of the country in their neighbourhood; and they are advantageous to that part of the country. Though they introduce some real commodities, they offer many new markets for produce." * Canals may be considered as so many roads of a certain kind, on which one horse will draw as much as thirty, or on which one man and horse will transport as many goods as eighteen horses on ordinary roads. Much has been advanced on the probable advantages and disadvantages of an extensive inland navigation, and probably the decision of the question must be left to the judgment and experience of future generations. It has been stated on one side, that the partizans of canals have not failed to adopt a mode of reasoning, more specious than solid, by adverting to the advantages of this kind of communication between the extreme parts of the vast and populous empire of China, and the swampy morasses of Holland, which, without drains, would not only be impassable, but absolutely uninhabitable. Neither of which are apposite cases to make deductions from, for this island, the remotest parts of which from the sea are so small a distance, that with the assistance of its navigable rivers, land carriage becomes a trivial object in the value of its exports or imports. For it has been remarked, the very idea of a navigable river, the expences and the profits of which are to be defrayed out of the incumbent trade, pre-supposes much to be brought in, and much to be carried out, and consequently includes not only produce, but population. It might be therefore reasonable ground for hesitation, whether the benefit of a partial water carriage, in an inland part of the kingdom, where the produce and the consumption preserve nearly an equal pace with each other, will compensate for the loss of thousands of acres of the most valuable land

* Smith's Wealth of Nations. Vol. I. p. 229.

land thus rendered useless for the purposes of agriculture, and the multifarious injury done to the adjacent meadows by the oozing of the water through the banks; not to mention the abundance of depredations to which all kinds of property in the vicinity of a canal are obviously and unavoidably exposed. On the other hand it is remarked, that the line of a canal occupies but a very small space of ground, and instead of diminishing, it greatly increases the quantity of corn land by the conveyance it affords for manure to render productive barren soils. And a greater quantity of corn is left for the use of mankind, by the reduction of horses it occasions in the carrying business.

It has also been objected, that the increase of inland navigation must, by its superior cheapness and ease, certainly diminish our coasting trade, and consequently weaken the navy, the natural and constitutional bulwark of Great Britain. This objection is somewhat like the former one: it is regretting the enjoyment of an advantage, and the apprehension is apparently unfounded: for, as all the various branches of commerce mutually depend on, and support one another, the extension of the inland commerce will not diminish, but greatly enlarge the number of ships and seamen, especially the latter, by the accession of vast numbers of young men, trained up in the management of sails and oars, in parts of the country where no sail nor oar was ever seen before the introduction of canals. And experience has actually confirmed this reasoning, not only in the general increase of shipping, and consequently of seamen,* but by the certain knowledge, that the interior part of the country has began to rival the coast as a nursery of seamen, both for the merchant vessels and ships of war.

* In the year 1760, just before the Duke of Bridgwater's first canal was finished, the ships cleared out of the ports of England were rated to carry 471,241 tons. In the year 1790, when almost all England was intersected by canals, their burthen was 1,379, 329 tons (regular measurement) which must have required considerably more than double the number of sailors; and there can be no doubt that the inland navigation has contributed its proportion to this great increase.

Another objection is, that vast sums of money have been sunk in making canals. But this is a very frivolous cavil. If an estate is productive, the owner will never object to its being too great. And this kind of property has never failed of being advantageous to the public, even in those instances, where it has not been profitable to the proprietors. But granting the worst, that the canal is useless to the public, and consequently a dead loss to the proprietors, there is still no national loss: the money is only transferred from the pockets of the numerous subscribers, who are generally in circumstances to bear the loss of the sums subscribed, into the hands of industrious mechanics and labourers, who immediately return it into the general circulation. None of it is either hoarded or sent out of the country. Many turnpike roads cost more by the mile than some canals do: and as one horse can draw as great a weight of goods upon a canal, as thirty can draw upon a road, the superior serviceableness and profit of the canals is obvious.

Improvements by internal navigation had been long neglected in this country, though equally capable of such advantages as England. Long had her mines of lead, copper, iron, coals, and many other minerals, lain entirely neglected for want of that spirit of trade and encouragement necessary for exploring the treasures contained in the bowels of her mountains; and, although late, yet she at last sees the advantage of canals, some of which are cut into the very hills which abound in every useful and necessary mineral; nor is the surface defective in the gifts of nature, for here is some of the finest ship building timber in the world, which, for ages in many places has been decaying for want of a proper conveyance to a market. The gentlemen of this country are at last awake to their true interest, by observing the conduct of their neighbours on the opposite side of the Severn, and at length, by a most laudable spirit of enterprise in the land owners, will doubtless be successful, and become a pattern for other parts of the country to follow after.

As it was expected and foretold, that unusual advantages might

might be expected from canals in this country; no sooner did such speculations begin, than the emulation of the neighbouring gentlemen and land owners was roused to a proper sense of the treasures, hid in the bowels of the mountains, and who are now increasing and further extending canal navigation, to bring those valuable minerals into use, not only to their own profit and advantage, but to the benefit of the whole country.

In North Wales the first project which struck the landed interest was, the junction of the navigation on the rivers Severn and Dee, by opening an aquatic communication through the counties of Denbigh and Flint with various ramifications into the mining and manufacturing districts in the adjacent counties. This plan was carried into effect by cutting a canal from the Severn near Shrewsbury, to the Dee in the vicinity of Chester, and from the original subscribers having held their meetings at the town of Ellesmere in Shrophire, or some other circumstance, it bears the inappropriate name of the *Ellesmere canal.*

"The act for this canal was obtained in 34. Geo. III. It joins the Severn on the northern side of Shrewsbury, at Bagley Bridge, and taking a north course, passes Newton, Walford, Basehurch, Weston, Lullingfield, and Hordley; here a cut branches to Llangmynech town and lime-works, being 12 miles; the canal then passes Francton common, from whence the Whitehaven branch commences; it is then continued and passing Ridges, by Old Martin, crosses the river Morlas, and soon after the river Ceiriog, then proceeds near to Chirk Castle, and crosses the river Dee at Pont-y-Cyssyllte, by a noble aqueduct; it then goes to Ruabon, Newhall, Bersham, Chapel, from whence the Frood branch proceeds, which is three and a half miles; it then passes Gresford, whence a branch of four miles goes to Holt; from thence it passes Pulford in a direct line, and Leach Hall, and crossing the Dee, passes on the West side of Chester, and then by Backford, Chorlton, Croughton, Stoke, Stanney, Whethy, and there joins the river Mersey, being 57 miles long, with 537 lockage. From the junction with the Severn at Bagley Bridge to Newton, is one mile and a quarter, with 110 feet

rise; from thence to Francton common is fifteen and a half miles, with 42 feet rise; thence to Newmartin common is three and 1-4th miles, with 42 feet rise; thence to the river Dee is eight miles, on a level; directly from thence is 75 feet rise, in half a mile; thence to the Frood branch is eight and a half miles, and level, and the summit: thence to Chester is eleven and a half miles, and 380 feet fall; from thence to the Mersey is eight miles."*

The Whitchurch branch joins it near Hordley, and extends fourteen miles.

The Llanymynech branch is twelve miles, with 21 feet fall, and proceeds from near Hordley, where it leaves the main line by Felton and Martyn Chapel to Llanymynech.

Montgomery Canal. The act for this canal was obtained 34. Geo. III. It unites with a branch of the Ellesmere canal, very near Llanymynech, and there crosses the river Vernwy, where it joins another branch of the Ellesmere canal; and then goes by Gwern-felu, where a cut branches off to Guilsfield and Welsh Pool; and from thence proceeds nearly parallel with the Severn by Berbiew to Newtown in Montgomeryshire. This canal is twenty-seven miles long, besides the cuts, and the lockage is 225 feet. The cut to Guilsfield is three and 1-4th miles, and level. This canal joining the Ellesmere, affords a ready conveyance to Shrewsbury and Chester; and should the one intended to be made from Newtown by Ludlow, form a junction with the Leominster canal, it will open a communication highly advantageous to the southern parts of the river Severn. Quarries of lime-stone, free-stone, slate, &c. as well as mines of coal, lead, and other minerals, are found on the borders of this canal its whole length, which will find a ready and cheap conveyance to a certain market, to the great emolument of the owners, as well as to the consumers and manufacturers.

South Wales preceded North Wales in this kind of improvement.

Kidwelly Canal. This canal is the private property of the two coheiresses of a Mr. Keymer, who cut this communication at

* See Philipp's History of Inland Navigation.

at his private expence, between three and four miles long, in his own estate, from the town of Kidwelly, in Carmarthenshire, to his coal mines and lime-stone works; which at the same time that it enriches the worthy and respectable proprietors, is of the greatest service and utility to the neighbourhood for miles around.

CARDIFF TO MERTHYR TYDVIL CANAL. In 1790 an act was obtained for cutting a canal from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydvill, a distance of 25 miles: it begins at Penarth, below Cardiff, and passes Llandaff and Pielly bridge to Merthyr Tydvil, and by a branch takes in those iron furnaces which have begun to work near Aberdare, and where, no doubt, from this easy conveyance, that new ones will be erected, as this facile and cheap carriage to a market for such heavy articles, is all that was wanted. The lime-stone and coals which before were useless to the owner now find, by this canal, a ready demand and easy carriage; and the works are become a prosperous and profitable undertaking. The fall from Merthyr Tydvil to Caerdiff is nearly 600 feet.

ABERDARE CANAL. The act for cutting this canal from the village of Aberdare, in the county of Glamorgan, was obtained 33 Geo. III. and joins the Glamorgan canal at the fork, made by the junction of the little river Cynon with the river Taffe. It goes through a beautiful country, parallel with the river Cynon to Aberdare, being in length seven miles and a half; the first part is level, but three miles next to Aberdare has a rise of 41 feet. There is a rail-way from Aberdare, which crosses the Cynon, near the village, and joins the Neath canal at Abernant, in length eight miles and a half.

NEATH CANAL. A canal from Neath to Furno Vaughan had long been in contemplation, and application was made to parliament in 1790, and an act was immediately granted for cutting a canal from Neath, in Glamorganshire, to Furno Vaughan in the same county, the mountains abounding in coals, lime-stone, iron ore, copper, lead, &c. This canal is about 12 miles long, and near the town of Neath joins the river Neath.

BRECKNOCK CANAL. The act for this canal was obtained 33 Geo. III. and unites with the Monmouth canal eight miles and

and a half from Newport,* and one mile from Pontypool. It crosses the river Avon, where by a tunnel it goes through the highlands there, about 220 yards in length, and passes the town of Abergavenny, towards the Usk, proceeding parallel with that river to Brecknock. From where it joins the Monmouth canal it is 11 miles to Abergavenny, and also for three miles farther it is level; from thence to Brecknock is eighteen miles and a half, with 68 feet rise; from Abergavenny to the canal is one mile, of rail-way; also from the canal at Cwm-Clydach to the Wain-Dew coal and iron-works there is a rail-way four miles and three quarters in length, and also another rail-road a mile and a quarter from the canal to Llangreney, which crossing the river Usk.

Swansea Canal. The act for this canal was obtained 34 Geo. III. and goes from the town of Swansea in Glamorganshire, by Llandwr, and thence runs parallel with the river Tawy, crosses the little river Twrch, and ends at Hen-noyadd. It is 17 miles long, and has 373 feet rise, that is to say, from Swansea to opposite Pont-ar-Tawy, which is eight miles and three quarters, it has 105 feet rise; thence to Pont Gwaynclawdd is eight miles, and has 230 feet rise; the other three-quarters of a mile rises 31 feet. This canal goes through a country like the last, plentiful in all kinds of ores and mineral substances.

In the year 1801 application was made to parliament, to obtain a bill for the cutting a navigable canal from Spitty, near the port of Llanelly, to the town of Llandovery, in Caermarthenshire; which would open a communication to the sea, through the whole interior of that extensive and rich county.

Manufactures, Commerce, &c. Manufactures, till within a few years, were not very extensively diffused, nor could they be considered of much account in the general scale of productive industry. Wales, however, for centuries was celebrated for its flannels, and though competitors are found in Yorkshire and other parts of the north of England, yet the country may be still considered as standing unrivalled in the manufacture of this useful article. The trade is principally confined to North Wales,

* See the Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 29.

Wales, and the following statement extracted from an account drawn up by a person well acquainted with the subject, may serve as a tolerable view of the woollen trade.*

The different articles of manufacture are webs, flannels, stockings, wigs, gloves, and socks. Webs are distinguished by the trade into two sorts, 1. Strong or high country cloth. 2. Small or low country cloth.

1. Strong cloth is made in Merionethshire, and principally in the neighbourhood of Dolgellu and Machynlleth: at this latter place a manufactory on a small scale has lately been established, a circumstance only worthy of notice, as forming the commencement of a change in preparing the wool, which will probably soon become general.

Almost every little farmer makes webs, and few cottages in these parts are without a loom; all kinds of wool are used indiscriminately, and a considerable quantity of refuse from the wool-staplers and skinners is collected from all quarters for this purpose. During a time of peace much Kentish wool used to be imported. Many farmers however employ wool of their own growth, and this produces by far the best kind of cloth. The standard width of this article is seven-eighths of a yard; the length of a piece, or what is emphatically styled a web, is about 200 yards: this consists of two ends, each 100 yards, thus divided for the conveniency of carriage. The quality is necessarily of various degrees. The market for this cloth was Shrewsbury; but it is now little more than nominally so. A market however is regularly held every Thursday, in a great room belonging to the Drapers' Company, into which none but the members of that corporation are admitted. To this monopoly is to be ascribed the removal of the market from Shrewsbury, as persons not of the fraternity, but who pursued the same trade, intercepted the cloth in its way to the town; so that the drapers themselves, whenever trade is brisk, are obliged to go up into the country, (as the phrase is) and buy goods wherever they can find them; at Dolgellu, Machynlleth, the villages, farm-

* See Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c.

farm-houses, cottages, or fulling mills. In consequence of this it is now become a custom with the principal drapers to keep servants the greater part of the year at Dolgellu or its neighbourhood, who get acquainted with the persons who make cloth, assist the poorer ones frequently with small sums of money to purchase wool, and, in fact, superintend the making and dressing of the goods.

2. Small cloth is the produce of Denbighshire. It is entirely manufactured within the parish of the Glynn, a large tract of country including Llangollen and Corwen. There is no established factory for this article. Small cloth is about one-eighth of a yard narrower than strong cloth; its length is the same. This cloth is chiefly sold in a dyed state. Some quantity is indeed sent off in its native or white state, but all that is dyed is, or ought to be, of this kind; the reason of which is that the coarser sort of the high country cloth abounds with long white hairs, called kemps incapable of taking the dye. This fabric is made of the coarser part of the very long wool that grows round Oswestry. Of this wool the finer part is converted into a sort of flannel called Oswestry flannel, in substance between a common Welsh flannel and a web; its breadth is three quarters of a yard; its value from ten to fifteen pence at Oswestry, the place for the sale of these woollens; but the cloths are conveyed by the venders into any garret, stable, parlour, or kitchen that they can procure, and the purchasers hunt them out as well as they are able: the market is however confined to one or two streets. The purposes to which webs are applied abroad are various; the clothing of the slaves in the West Indies and South America creates a large demand; stockings are said to be made of them in Germany, and other parts of the continent; and the late Empress of Russia at one time clothed part of her troops with this article.

But *flannels* constitute the grand and most important of the Welsh manufactures. The texture and uses of this comfortable commodity it is unnecessary to point out. It is chiefly the produce of Montgomeryshire, but by no means confined to that

county, being made in various places within a circle of about twenty miles round Welsh Pool. There is only one manufactory of note in this line in Wales; which is at Dolobran, near Pool, and is said to be a parish concern, and has been established about seven years. There are a few other infant factories at Newtown, Machynlleth, and other places, but as yet of little consequence.*

At present the greater part of the thousands of pieces of flannel which are annually sold at Pool, is the produce of manual labour; but the use of machines increases, and will speedily become general. Formerly the Welsh bestowed no pains in sorting the wool, a fleece was broken into two parts, never into more than three: they have now however learnt the economy of a little more trouble, and can make distinctions of sorts to the number of seven or eight: the consequence is a great variation in the texture of flannels, and some have been sold as low as sixpence, while others have been disposed of at four shillings per yard. Coarse goods are at present very scarce and extravagantly dear, none being to be had under eleven or twelve pence per yard. The market at Pool is once a fortnight, on a Monday. Each manufacturer used to bring for sale his own goods, but of late a set of middle men has sprung up, called Welsh drapers, a sort of jobbers or forestallers, who go about the country to the different cottages, and buy all the flannel that they can lay their hands upon.

No calculation has been made of the number of yards manufactured, nor indeed is it conjecturable.† Very little flannel is immediately

* Since this account was written the flannel manufacture has been considerably extended, and numerous improvements adopted. Two large factories have been erected near Llanydloes in Montgomeryshire, and the various machines, used in the woollen trade by the English, are applied to the purposes of manual labour.

† Mr. Pennant, in his Snowdonia, p. 397, published in 1781, mentions that there are brought annually to Salop 700,000 yards of webs; and to Welshpool annually, between 7 and 800,000, yards of flannel; but he does not state the particulars whence he deduces this general estimate.

immediately exported by the Shrewsbury drapers, who, for the most part, sell their goods to the London merchants; by these, flannels, as well as other woollens, are sent to the continent, to America, and the West Indies: the chief demand however is inland. It is impossible to tell the number of pieces exported, except by enquiries at the ports; for though each draper may know the proportion exported of his own goods, yet no one is acquainted with what his neighbour exports.

Stockings, wigs, socks, gloves, and other small knit articles, are sold chiefly at Bala,* being made in the town and neighbourhood; they are generally purchased by Welsh hosiers, who travel through the adjoining English counties, and supply the shops and warehouses; from the latter they are dispersed through the island. Stockings are of all colours, greys of various shades, white, blue, red, &c. which sell from six to nine shillings per dozen.

Very considerable manufactures of cottons and cotton twist have been established in the counties of Flint and Denbigh, the principal of which are at Northop, Greenfield, Sceiviog, Newmarket, and Denbigh. In these factories a number of machines called mules are used with great success. These machines are so denominated, from being of a mixed kind, forming a compound of the water-engine and the spinning-jenny. They are peculiarly adapted for the spinning of fine yarns, and far exceeding every other machine yet discovered for that purpose. In some of these manufactories cotton yarn is spun of so fine a texture, that 130 hanks, each hank being 830 yards long, make but a pound weight. The principle on which cotton wool is drawn out to such a surprising fineness, is by the use of iron rollers, which have an horizontal movement, regulated as to speed, by brass wheels of different sizes and numbers according to the degrees of fineness required in the thread. The cotton twist or yarn here manufactured is sent chiefly into England

* The market here is every Saturday, when from two to five hundred pounds worth of stockings are sold each day, according to the demand.

Pennant's Snowdonia, p. 67.

England and Scotland, to be wove into fustians, callicos, muslins, &c.

Numerous manufactures of copper, iron, lead, tin-plates, &c. have been set up both in North and South Wales, a particular and detailed account of which will be given with the descriptions of the respective places where they subsist.

The *commerce* of Wales may justly be considered at present in its infancy, being chiefly confined to the coasting trade. Except Caernarvon and Swansea, which have lately extended their views to Spain, Portugal, and the West Indies, few of the Welsh ports possess vessels of very considerable tonnage; though no part of the island contains a greater proportion of harbours and roads, some of which are safe and good, and more might soon be made such, by the building of piers and other improvements, which are obvious at the respective places. For there is no reason to doubt, but were the public attention paid to this manifest scheme for enriching the principality, that it would be found very practicable to supply the defects of nature in many instances by art; so as to render several of the Welsh havens, now barred by choaking sands, capable of receiviug ships of burthen. There are scattered over the country vestiges demonstrative that Wales was once in a much more flourishing condition, and no impossibility exists why it should not be equally, or superiorly so, again. It possesses extensive capabilities, and when the benefits arising from industry shall be thoroughly understood by the higher, and properly encouraged in the lower classes, of the Welsh, the spirit of improvement will be rapidly diffused; the present coast-trade be despised; and the fruits of trade and commerce exalt places, now scarcely known, in a scale of rank, equal with Chester, Bristol, and Liverpool.

PECULIAR CUSTOMS, SUPERSTITIONS &c. Among a variety of Welsh customs, those in courtship, marriage, and at funerals, cannot fail to excite attention. Hymeneal negociations are frequently carried on by the Welsh peasanty in bed. The

young Strephon frequently goes several Welsh miles to visit the object of his choice, either to her place of servitude, or the residence of her friends. The young couple retire to a bed room, and between the blankets converse on those subjects, which the nature of the occasion may suggest. The youth generally goes on a Saturday night, and returns to his work on the Monday morning.

This singular custom, which has been compared, not very happily, to the American *Bundling*, is one of those that served to mark the original British character; and among many others, remains to distinguish this people to the present day. To those who conjecture, that every familiarity must be accompanied by improper ideas, this mode of courtship will appear highly objectionable; and those, who consider every custom that differs from their own as founded in barbarism, will be inclined to censure it, as productive of evil. But as this usage is entirely confined to the labouring classes of the community, it is not so pregnant with danger as on a first supposition it might appear. Both parties are so poor, that they are necessarily constrained to render their issue legitimate, in order to secure their reputation, and with it a mode of obtaining a livelihood.

The *weddings* are thus conducted:—When two young people have agreed to enter into a state of wedlock, a friend undertakes to perform the office of Gwahadder, or *bidder* to the wedding; who goes round the neighbourhood to all persons in nearly the same station of life. If the wedding is of the better sort of people, he carries circular letters; if among the poorer, he does it viva voce. The import and form of the message is nearly as follows:—

Speech of the Bidder in Llanbadarn Vawr, 1762.

"The intention of the bidder is this; with kindness and amity, with decency and liberality for Einion Owain and Llio Elys, he invites you to come with your good-will on the plate; bring current money; a shilling, or two, or three, or four, or five;

five; with cheese and butter we invite the husband and wife, and children, and men-servants, and maid-servants, from the greatest to the least. Come there early, you shall have victuals freely, and drink cheap, stools to sit on, and fish if we can catch them; but if not, hold us excusable; and they will attend on you, when you call upon them in return. They set out from such a place to such a place."

In consequence of this, or a similar invitation, the friends and neighbours for a great extent, make a point of attending the wedding, laden with prese ; consisting of money, butter, cheese, &c. &c. these are efully set down by the clerk of the wedding, opposite to ea spective name, which are to be paid in the same public nner, and on the same occasions, whenever demanded. This is called Pwrs a Gwregys; and making the presents, tern , paying Pwyddion. As an ancient usage, it is considered on refusal, as recoverable by law; but a sense of the reciprocal duty generally prevents having recourse to such a mode of recovery.

It has sometimes happened, that a species of matrimonial swindling has been practised: persons in distress have made feigned nuptials, to recall the presents they may have made, and obtain those of others *.

This custom undoubtedly originated in the hospitality and affectionate disposition for which this people were for centuries famed. Nor can it be denied, that this national dowry must have acted as a strong inducement to matrimony; and been highly

* Tacitus seems to have noticed something of this kind in his treatise on the manners and customs of the Germans, a valuable morceau of historical information. Describing the marriages of those people, he observes, "Intersunt parentes et propinqui, ac munera probant, munera non ad delicias muliebres querita, nec quibus nova nupta comatur, sed boves, et frenatum, equum, et scutum cum framea gladioque, &c." The parents and relations of the new married couple attended to testify their approbation of the gift that were presented, gifts consisting not of luxurious delicacies, or bridal ornaments, but of oxen, horses trained to war, shields, swords, and ashen poles, pointed with polished iron heads, &c.

highly conducive to the strength and population of the country. It provided a permanent and never failing fund for the use of those entering into life; which encouraged them to set out with hope, and called upon their resolution to persevere in the same economy and industry that produced it.

It might be expected, that those who had such singular customs at the entrance on life, would have some peculiarities on the departure out of it. Previous to a funeral it is usual for the friends of the deceased to meet in the apartment where the corpse is placed; some of them, generally the female part, bewail the loss of their departed friend. When it is brought to the door one of the relations gives bread, cheese, and beer, over the coffin to some poor persons of the same sex, and nearly of the same age with the deceased, for collecting herbs and flowers to put into the coffin with the body; sometimes a loaf, with a piece of money stuck in it, is added. This done, all attending kneel down, and the minister, if present, repeats the Lord's Prayer. At every cross-way they stop, and the same ceremony is repeated, till they arrive at the church. Frequently the intervals are filled up by singing of psalms and hymns, which amidst the stillness of rural life, and the echo from the hills, produces a melancholy effect; and adds to the sombre solemnity of the occasion.

The funerals in Wales are attended by greater crowds of people than even their weddings. A custom prevails in this country of each individual in the congregation making some offering in money on these occasions, which, if done in the church, is paid as a mark of respect to the clergyman. This custom*, which is at present confined to North Wales; has doubtless been retained from the Romish religion, where the money was intended as a recompence to the priests for their trouble in singing mass for the soul of the deceased. In some cases, where the clergyman is not respected by his parishioners, the offerings are made on the coffin at the door of the house

* See Bingley's and Evans's Tour through North Wales.

where the deceased resided, and are then distributed among the poor relatives. When, however, the offerings are made in the church, the other mode very rarely occurs. The whole of the morning or evening prayers for the day, and the usual part of the burial service in the church, are first read: the next of kin to the deceased then comes forward to the altar table, and if it is a poor person, puts down sixpence or a shilling, but if he is sufficiently opulent, half a crown or a crown, and sometimes even so much as a guinea. This example is followed by the other relatives, and afterwards by the rest of the congregation whose situation in life will afford it, who advance in turn to offer. When the offering of silver is ended, a short pause ensues, after which, those who cannot spare any larger sum, come forward, and put down each a penny, (a halfpenny not being admitted.) Collections on these occasions have been known to amount to ten or fifteen pounds, but where the relatives are indigent, they do not often exceed three or four shillings. In cases where families are left in distress, this money is usually given by the clergyman to them. When the collection is entirely finished, the body is taken to the grave, the remainder of the burial service is read, and the awful ceremony is there closed.—The offerings at Llanbublic, the parish church of Caernarvon, sometimes amount to fifty or sixty pounds a year.

A remarkable custom prevails over some parts of Wales viz. planting the graves of departed friends with various evergreens, and all the choicest gifts of Flora's hand. Box thrift, and other plants fit for edging, are planted round in the shape of the grave for a border, and every flower, that adorns the smart parterre, is placed within; so that the taste of the living may here be known by the manner of embellishing these mansions of the dead. The snow-drop, violet, and primrose harbingers of spring, denote the infant dust; the rocket, rose, and woodbine, shew maturer years; while tansey, rue, and star-wort, mark declining life. Each has its little evergreen, fond emblem of that perennial state where change is known no

more*. Nor are they once planted, left to be over-run by the luxuriancy of less delicate neighbours, but constantly weeded and cherished by the hands of the nearest friends of the deceased, who appropriate every Saturday afternoon for this amiable weakness, or rather pious remembrance of departed worth†.

It has been observed that mountainous scenery is peculiarly friendly to those aërial and imaginary existences which constitute the objects of *superstition*‡. The constant variation in their appearance, added to the gloom attendant upon lofty crags, hollow cwms, deep ravines, lakes, dingles, caves, and torrents; must have a strong tendency to affect the imagination; fear is the offspring of ignorance, and unbounded credulity the concomitant of fear; similar notions will produce similar manners, and equal degrees of intelligence are generally marked by a coincidence of belief. Hence the spirit of conjuration, so prevalent in Lapland, the second sight of the Highlands, and the vagaries of the Awenyddion in Wales, (a word significant of poetical

* Shakespeare sweetly alludes to this custom in his Cymbeline:

With fairest flowers, lass,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave; thou shalt not lack
The flower that's like thy face, pale primrose, nor
The azure hare-bell, like thy veins. No, nor
The leaf of eglantine, which, not to slander,
Outsweeten'd not thy breath.

† Still when the hours of solemn rites return,
The village train in sad procession mourn;
Pluck every weed that might the spot disgrace,
And plant the fairest field-flow'rs in their place,
Around no noxious plant or flowret grows,
But the first daffodil, and earliest rose;
The snowdrop spreads its whitest blossoms here,
And golden cowslips grace the vernal year:
Here the pale primrose takes a fairer hue,
And every violet boasts a brighter blue.

BLEEDING ROCK.

‡ "Hence superstition sprung in elder time,
Wild as the soil, and gloomy as the clime."

RICHARDS.

poetical raptures), were derived from the same origin; these persons, when consulted, became inflamed with a high degree of enthusiasm, were, to all appearance, carried out of themselves, and seemed possessed of an invisible spirit; yet they did not immediately give a solution of the difficulty; but, by an inconsistent circumlocution with which they abounded, any person, who observed the answer would, at length, by some turn or digression in the speech, receive, or fancy that he did, the required explanation*. From this state of ecstacy they were at last roused as from a deep sleep, and were compelled, by the violence of their friends, to return to their natural state; and it is said, that they did not recollect any thing, that passed, or which they had uttered; if it happened that they were again consulted upon the same, or any other subject, they would deliver themselves in very different terms. This property of divining they fancied was bestowed upon them in their sleep, at which time, according to Giraldus, it appeared to some as though new milk was poured into their mouth; to others, as though a scroll of writing; and, on their waking, they publicly professed to be endued with these extraordinary gifts; but this kind of devotion becomes daily less in repute, and chiefly confined to the mountainous parts. The belief of witchcraft is still strong, and many are the fatal and dire effects produced by the supposed hybrid beings. At every house you will perceive a horseshoe, cross, or some charm of defence against these venomous spirits; and it is usual to place on the Vigil of St. John sprigs of the Hypericum, thence called St. John's wort, at the entrance, in the same manner the Druids were used to do Veronica. Its supposed virtue is couched in the title: Cos gan Gythral, i. e. Dæmon's Aversion. "Many old women, therefore, because they happen to be

* The folly of divination and fortune telling to the thinking mind must be obvious, and is more supported by the belief of the credulous, than the arts of knavery; for, to the whole tribe of diviners may be applied the remark of Euripides. "Μαντις δ' αριστος οστις εικαζει καλως."

old, and perhaps deformed, have to bear the odium of preventing the cows from yielding milk, and butter from forming in the churn. They are also believed to possess the power of inflicting disorders both in men and cattle, and that they seldom neglect to do it when they have been offended. This will well account for the notion of witches having been strenuously maintained some centuries ago, even by the most enlightened persons of the age. Old women, on whom the generally odious epithet of witch has been once fixed by the popular voice, have found it their interest, and in Wales to this day find it their interest, to deny nothing that is alledged to them. They become thus held in superstitious fear by the people, and in many instances obtain an easy livelihood from their supposed extent of power. Wherever they ask alms, it would be (say the common people) the death of a cow or horse, or perhaps even one of the family, to refuse them; and the neighbouring peasantry, much as they hold them in detestation, believe it their own interest to keep them always in good humour. The old women thus live, in some measure, in affluence, with little other trouble than feeding and training up three or four cats, and attending minutely to the concerns of their neighbours*."

Down to the reign of James I. various statutes were passed, making witchcraft, conjuration, or sorcery, felony without benefit of clergy. During this period, while laws were enacted to perpetuate error, it is probable that many innocent persons, distressed with poverty and age, and disliked by the neighbourhood, fell the unfortunate victims; and this terror of ancient females was not removed till 9. Geo. II. c. 5†. Since that, a pretence to divination is considered as a misdemeanor, punishable by pillory and imprisonment. The belief of those elvine beings, called fairs or fairies, appears to have been ancient and general

* Bingley's North Wales vol. II. p. 275.

† The learned Montesquieu, in his Spirit of Laws, ranks this crime with that of heresy, and judiciously observes, that we ought to be very circumspect in the prosecution of both, because the most unexceptionable conduct, the purest morals, and the constant practice of every duty of social life, are not a sufficient security against the suspicion of such crimes.

general, not only from the Britons having reduced the notions respecting them to a kind of system; but because various allusions are made to them by the British bards, under the common appellation, "The Spirits of the Mountains." It is supposed they are fond of the southern sides of the hills and the deep recesses of the woods; of cleanliness, neatness of apparel, regular living, strict integrity, and devotedness to God; and that those who wish for their protection, or would avoid their ire, must pay attention to these things. To such characters they are esteemed friendly, and, to the opposite, exceedingly spiteful; troubling them with dreams, alarming them with noises, pinching them black and blue, carrying away their unbaptized children, and confining them for a given period; and it is a custom with the ignorant to watch their children till after baptism, lest they should be stolen or changed. They are said also to maim cattle by throwing ugly weapons at them; the stones, called arrow heads, found in these parts, are fancied to be elf shots; and a species of fungus, growing on the lower parts of the trunks of trees, when reduced to a soft consistency by rains, is called Fairy's Butter. The description by those that pretend to have seen them is, that they are in the human shape, exceedingly diminutive, always clad in green, and whenever employed are usually heard, being very noisy; their occupation over, they live a merry life, dancing hand in hand invisibly by moon light, footing to lyric measures over the verdant turf, leaving their marks in darkened circles, alias fairy rings, upon the green grass. Their vagaries are pleasantly alluded to by Brown in his pastorals:

"A pleasant mead,
Where fairies often did their measures tread,
Which in the meadow made such circles green,
As if with garlands it had crowned been.
Within one of these rounds was to be seen,
A hillock rise, where oft the fairy queen
As twilight sate, and did command those elves,
To pinch those maids that had not swept the shelves;
And further if, by maiden's oversight,

Within

Within doors water were not brought at night,
Or if they spread no table, set no bread,
They should have nips from toe unto the head.
And for the maid that had performed each thing,
She in the water-pail bade leave a ring."

Considerably allied to the fairies, is another species of supposed aerial beings, called by the Welsh, *knockers*. These, the Welsh miners say, are heard under ground, in or near mines, and by their noises generally point out to the workmen a rich vein of ore. The following are extracts from a letter on this extraordinary subject, written by Mr. Lewis Morris, a man eminent for his learning and good sense.* "People who know very little of arts or sciences, or the powers of nature, (which, in other words, are the powers of the author of nature,) will laugh at us, Cardiganshire miners, who maintain the existence of knockers in mines, a kind of good-natured impalpable people, not to be seen but heard, and who seem to us to work in the mines; that is to say, they are the types, or fore-runners of working in mines, as dreams are of some accidents which happen to us. The barometer falls before rain or storms. If we did not know the contruction of it, we should call it a kind of omen that foretels rain; but we know it is natural, and produced by natural means, comprehended by us. Now how are we sure, or any body sure, but that one's dreams are produced by the same natural means? There is some faint resemblance of this in the sense of hearing; the bird is killed before we hear the report of the gun. However this is, I must speak well of the knockers, for they have actually stood my very good friends, whether they are aerial beings called spirits, or whether they are a people made of matter, not to be felt by our gross bodies, as air, and fire, and the like.

"Before the discovery of Esgair y Mywyn mine, these, little people, as we call them here, worked hard there day and night

* This letter, which was written to his brother, Mr. William Morris, comptroller of the customs, at Holyhead, is dated the 14th of October, 1754.

night; and there are abundance of honest, sober people, who have heard them, and some persons who have no notion of them, or of miners either; but after the discovery of the great vein of ore they were heard no more.

" When I began to work at Llwyn Llwyd, they worked so fresh there for a considerable time, that they frightened some young workmen out of the work. This was when we were driving levels, and before we had got any ore; but when we came to the ore, they then gave over, and I heard no more talk of them.

" Our old miners are no more concerned at hearing them blasting, boring holes, landing deads, &c. than if they were some of their own people; and a single miner will stay in the work, in the dead of the night, without any man near him, and never think of any fear, or of any harm they will do him. The miners have a notion that the *knockers* are of their own trade and profession, and are a harmless people who mean well. Three or four miners together shall hear them sometimes, but if the miners stop, to take notice of them, the knockers will also stop; but, let the miners go on at their own work, suppose it is boring, the knockers will at the same time go on as brisk as can be in landing, blasting, or beating down the loose; and they are always heard a little distance from them before they come to the ore.

" These are odd assertions, but they are certainly facts, though we cannot, and do not pretend to account for them. We have now very good ore at Llwyn Llwyd, where the knockers were heard to work, but have now yielded up the place, and are no more heard. Let who will laugh, we have the greatest reason to rejoice, and thank the knockers, or rather GOD, who sends us these notices."

It is an opinion very prevalent within the diocese of St. David's * in Pembrokeshire, that a short time previous to the death

* This is not strictly confined to the diocese of St. David's, like other erroneous opinions, it has learned to travel, and its progress has not yet been effectually obstructed by the dissemination of truth.

death of a person, a light is sometimes seen to proceed from the house, and even from the bed, and to pursue its way to the church where the body is to be interred, precisely in the same track that the funeral will afterwards follow. This light is called *canwyll corph*, or "*the corpse candle.*" They likewise add, that the same is bright or pale, according to the age of the person, and if the candle is seen to turn out of the path that leads to the church, the corpse will do so likewise.*

The paternal care of St. David over his flock would not permit him so far to afflict the people by his death, as to deprive them entirely of his superior prescience. For the comfort of posterity he put up his prayers, that the inhabitants of his diocese might have some peculiar mark of divine beneficence conferred on them. His supplications were heard, and a promise made, that no one should die without having this previous intimation of departure.

Another intimation of a funeral, is the *Teulu*, which is a phantasmagoric representation of the funeral; and the peasantry affirm, that when they meet with this, unless they move out of the way, they must inevitably be knocked down by the pressure of the crowd. It is added, that they know the persons whose spirits appear, and hear them distinctly singing hymns, on this awful occasion.

A strange custom prevails in some obscure parts of North Wales, which, however, the clergy have now almost abolished. This is termed the "offering of an enemy." When a person supposes himself highly injured by any one, he repairs to some church dedicated to a celebrated saint, or one who is believed to

* Such phenomena may be accounted for, from the frequent inflammation of hydrogenous gas mixing with atmospheric air, and enkindled by electric matter. Indeed, from the peaty and morassy soils of this district, such is its phosphoroscent quality, that often sparks of fire will be seen under the feet of travellers; which, to persons unacquainted with the cause, must appear formidable, if not ominous. From similar causes proceed those luminous effects called, from the supposed shapes they assume, lanterns, flying dragons, dancing giants, &c. &c.

to have great power over the affairs of men: here, kneeling on his bare knees before the altar, and offering a piece of money to the saint, he utters the most virulent and dreadful imprecations, calling down curses and misfortunes on the offender and his family even for generations to come. Sometimes the offended persons repair for the same purpose, to some sacred well, dedicated to a saint. Mr. Pennant was threatened by a man, who fancied he had been injured by him, "with the vengeance of St. Elian, and a journey to his well, to curse him with effect."* This is now only discoverable in the most illiterate or vitiated parts of the community, who, from the tyrannical nature of pseudo religious influence, have been kept under the worst of all slaveries, that of mental subjection. There exist numerous other superstitious opinions and practices, the offspring of monastic ignorance or imposition, and which are still cherished even by truly worthy members of society and devout christians. But as many of these are known, and even credited to the east of the Severn, to describe them would not be novel; and to particularly notice them, might appear invidious.

Language, Poetry, and Music. The Welsh language has an undeniable claim to very high antiquity, as a dialect of the Hebrew, spoken by the descendants of Japhet, and evidently, like the old Gallic, is of Celtic origin. Both in its formation, as well as grammatical construction, it has a near resemblance to the original tongue; and the affinity is further demonstrated by the learned Rowlands, in the comparative table, containing three hundred words, which might have been extended, since the publication of Owen's invaluable dictionary, to as many thousand. It is, perhaps, without exception, the most primitive, and uncorrupt living language in the western world. It abounds with original words, more especially technical terms, which other languages usually borrow from the Greek, or express by circumlocutions: and from its aptitude to form verba sesquipedalia,

* Tour in Wales, vol. ii. p. 397.

dalia, is peculiarly fitted for poetry and oratory. The accent, like its parent the Hebrew, being generally confined to the penultima or last syllable but one, produces often a monotony, yet at the same time a dignity of sound; and the multiplicity of consonants which might be supposed to give it an unusual degree of harshness, tends to furnish it with numerous elegancies and varieties in sonorous beauty. The copiousness is unrivalled, principally arising from the multifarious combination of the verbs, each of which has about twenty modifications, by means of qualifying prefixes; and these possess the double capacity of being either conjugated by inflexions, like the Latin, or like the English, by the aid of auxiliary verbs. From the numerous gutturals it has been termed rugged, and by those unacquainted with its extensive capability might be supposed ill adapted to express soft and melodious sounds: yet that it is adequate to represent a great degree of softness, the following englyns or stanzas will demonstrate,

Mae mil o leisian meluson
Mal mel o hyd ym mola fhon.
Within the concave of the womb is found
The magic scale of soul-enchanting sound.

O'i wiw wy i weu ê â a'i weuau
O'i wyau y weua;
E'weua yw ei we aia',
A'i, weuau yw ieuau iâ.
I perish by my art;
Dig my own grave,
I spin my thread of life,
My death I weave.*

Of its great energy and capability of displaying one of the chief beauties in language, the sound corresponding with the sense, a distich on thunder may serve as a specimen:

Tan a dwr yn ymwrnaw
Yw'r taranau dreigiau draw.
The roaring thunder dreadful in its ire
Is water warring with aerial fire.

These

* This epigram on the silk worm, consists of vowels only, and is perhaps not to be equalled in any language.

These examples, to which thousands of a similar description might be added, corroborate the testimony of the author of Letters from Snowden, that the Welsh language, at the same time it may boast the softness and harmony of the Italian, possesses all the majesty and expression of the Greek.

The orthoepy of the Welsh is very different from the English. In the language of Cambria are thirty-eight letters; sixteen of which are radicals, expressive of the primary sounds; and the rest may be considered as serviles, because used as inflections, or mutations of the former; for each of which there is a simple appropriate character. But since the invention of printing, and the introduction of the Roman letters, it has been necessary, for want of a sufficient variety for the purpose, to adopt two, and even three of these to express one sound, anciently designated by a single character; by which means the simplicity and beauty of the proper alphabet is lost. This was what is now generally considered as the Saxon alphabet, but certainly belonged to the Britons, having been used in their writings, for centuries, previous to the invasion of that people. Many of the ancient British manuscripts are written in this character, part of the liber Landavensis, and several preserved in private libraries. Monumental inscriptions, as old as the sixth and seventh centuries, are in this character, and that this was the ancient British alphabet is highly probable from the observation of Cæsar, when speaking of the Druids, "Græcis literis utuntur," They use the Greek alphabet. No unapt comparison, if the ancient Greek and British inscriptive letters are properly confronted. When the Saxons first came into Britain, Dr. Johnstone observes, they appear "to have been a people without learning, and very probably without an alphabet."—And Rowlands acutely remarks, that if they had brought the use of letters with them from Saxony, or wherever they came from, there would have been some remains either of inscriptions, or manuscripts in that country, unless they had all come over to a man, and brought with them all their books and their tombstones also. But in no part of Germany is there any thing like a

Saxon character to be found. That they invented these letters after their arrival in Britain is entirely an improbable conjecture; because at that time the Roman character was in general use, and ready for their adoption. And it may be further observed, that when the Britons were driven out of Mercia several of the learned were permitted to remain, and by them the Saxons were probably first instructed in the use of letters: for it is a notable fact, that Asserus and Scotus, the tutors of Alfred, were both Britons, and that prudent monarch borrowed his legal institute from the laws of the Cambrian jurisprudence. No letter in the Welsh language has any variation of sound, except the accented vowels, which are lengthened, or otherwise changed according to the power of the accent, and all are pronounced, there being no mutes. The following letters differ in their power from the English, viz. A, pronounced as a, in man. C is always hard, as k in ken; ç or ch is a guttural, as the Greek χ; Dd sounds like th in the; G is pronounced hard, as g in go; I like double ee in been: Ll as an asperated l, and bears a sound very difficult to pronounce by persons not born in the country; U is similar to i, in sin; W is a vowel adequate to oo, in soon; and Y is similar to u, in burn. What evinces the simplicity and antiquity of the Welsh is, that all compounds in the language, are regularly formed from *monosyllables*, and those are again reducible to classes of similar sounds, having a coincidence of import, as *pen*, a head; *cen*, the top or first; *nen* the top or what is vertical overhead; *llen* a veil or covering; *lleen* a teacher or man of learning, *Rheen* a creator, or one that gives a beginning. None of this class even are primitives, but compounded of *py*, *cy*, *ny*, *lly*, *lle*, *rhe*, with *en* a principle or first cause, whence enaid the soul, literally the principle of life from en and aid, life.* The Welsh, Cornish, Armorican, and the Erse or Gaelic, are dialects of the same language, agreeing in their grammar, structure, and nomenclature, though differing in orthography and

* Owen's Welsh Dictionary, and notes to his translation of the Heroic Elegies of Llywarch Hen.

and pronunciation; in consequence of the long separ
inhabitants of the respective countries from each ;
they evidently are derived from one common source, the anci
Celtic. A modern Welsh writer has remarked, "that some advocates for the abolition of the Welsh tongue are vain enough to prognosticate a near approaching day, when it will be numbered with the dead languages. They see some few families on the borders, and about a dozen innkeepers upon the post-roads, who speak English only; but there are thousands, and tens of thousands in the wilds of Wales, who have learned the language of their parents, and of their country, as naturally and as innocently as they sucked their mother's breasts, or breathed the common air; these have neither opportunity, nor inclination to learn any other tongue. This is the impregnable fortress of the Welsh language, where a rivetted cordial antipathy against the English tongue, caused by the cruelties of Edward the First, and of the Lancastrian family, dwells as commander in chief. Storm this garrison, and overturn Snowdon from its base."* But this is far from an accurate and impartial statement, for the Welsh is getting fast into disuse through the principality, more especially the southern part. The gentry of the country are principally educated in England, and consequently few of them speak it, and many of them wish for its extermination. The example of the higher classes is become contagious, and ere long the language and manners of Cambria will by approximation coalesce with those of the inhabitants to the east of the Severn.

The ancient Britons were exceedingly partial to *poetry*. Wales, as their place of refuge, was early the seat of the poetic muse, and modern effusions of original genius evince, that the soul-inspiring goddess of song has not deserted her favourite mountains. The laws of composition, however, were so strict, that they must have cramped the genius of their bards, had it not been for the extent of the language, its copiousness, and aptitude

* Cambrian Register for the year 1796, p. 280.

aptitude for alliteration, a figure considered by the Welsh as a peculiar beauty. This consonancy, called Cynghanedd, is very imperfectly seen in English compositions, compared with the regular system by which it is governed in the Welsh language. To give a proper analysis of it would require more room, than is admissible from the nature of the present work. The following couplet may serve as a fair specimen.

Gwyr a wna gwr yn wral
Gwr a wna gwyr yn ei al.

To this they added another, that of adopting the sound to the sense. And perhaps no poets were ever more distinguished for the masterly use of this figure, than the Welsh, nor any language better calculated for its exhibition. A third was, a peculiar ingenuity in the selection and arrangement of words, so as to produce a rhythmical concatenation of sounds in every verse. The Welsh had twenty-four poetical measures* to which all possible varieties and combinations of metres are reducible in any language. But the most favourite seem to have been the triple and tetrastich. Llywarch Hen has an englyn rhyming every three lines, and each stanza commencing with the same phrase. The Hanes of Taliesin consists of eight tetrastichs, and the Eyry Mynydd, written by the former bard, consists of twelve octonary stanzas. So general and inveterate was this syllabic and jingling rage, that he was considered the best poet, who could succeed to the farthest monotonous extent. The Cyngor of Taliesin has sixteen lines ending in *on;* and a Cywydd of Dafydd ap Gwilim contains fifty-two, terminating in *af.*

As a specimen of their poetry take the following translation of an elegy which was written by Llywarch Hên, a British Bard

* For a particular account of these, and other information, respecting Welsh poetry, see Owen's translation of Llywarch Hên Heroic Elegies, and Walter's Dissertation on the Welsh language.

Bard of the sixth century, on the death of Cynddylan, prince of Powys.

Come forth and see, ye Cambrian dames,
Fair Pengwern's* royal roofs in flames!
The foe the fatal dart hath flung
(The foe that speaks a barb'rous tongue,)
And pierc'd Cynddylan's princely head,
And stretch'd your champion with the dead.
His heart, which late, with martial fire,
Bade his lov'd country's foes expire
(Such fire as wastes the forest hill)
Now like the Winter's ice is chill.

O'er the pale corse with boding cries
Sad Argoed's† cruel eag lies;
He flies exulting o'er ain,
And scents the blood roes slain.
Dire bird! this night my frighted ear
Thy loud ill-omen'd voice shall hear:
I know thy cry, that screams for food,
And thirsts to drink Cynddylan's blood.

No more the mansion of delight,
Cynddylan's hall is dark to night;
Nor more the midnight hour prolongs
With fires, and lamps, and festive songs.
Its trembling bards afflicted shun
The hall, bereav'd of Cyndrwyn's son‡
Its joyous visitants are fled;
Its hospitable fires are dead:
No longer, rang'd on either hand
Its dormitory, couches stand:
But all above, around, below,
Dread sights, dire sounds, and shrieks of woe.

Awhile I'll weep Cynddylan slain,
And pour the weak, desponding strain;

Awhile

* Now Shrewsbury, then the chief residence of the princes of Powys.
† The ancient name of Powys.
‡ Cynddylan was the son of Cyndrwyn.

Awhile I'll sooth e my troubled breast:
Then, in eternal silence rest.*

Canu Telyn. The harp is recorded to be the most ancient, and we may justly add, the most expressive and elegant of all musical instruments. Among the eastern nations it was esteemed the symbol of concord, and probably it was the instrument first attuned to harmony or counterpoint.

The Telyn Gwrda was possessed by every Cambrian youth of gentility, and a taste for this instrument, in preference to any other, still exists among the inhabitants of Wales. Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote his itinerary through Wales in the year 1188, speaking of the liberality and hospitality of the Welsh, says, "Those who come at early hours are entertained with the conversation of young women, and with tunes on the harp, during the evening: for here every family hath its damsels, and harps assigned for this purpose. Every family too is here well skilled in all the knowledge of the harp.† The *Crwth* ‡ was another instrument something like the violin. It has this name from its resemblance to a box. Its sound is very melodious, and it was frequently used as a tenor accompaniment to the harp: but it is now become extremely rare. The word crwth has been corrupted in English into *crowd*, and used to express the common fiddle. To this Butler alludes,

I' th' head of all this warlike rabble,
Crowdero march'd, expert and able,
Instead of trumpet and of drum,
That makes the warrior's stomach come.
Hud. Part. I. Canto II. 105.

It has six strings, four running parallel in the manner of a violin, which are sounded by a bow; and two others, not placed over

* This Elegy was translated into English verse by the Rev. John Walters, master of Ruthin school, and late Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

† Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 292.

‡ The use of this instrument is principally at present limited to the very interior parts of the country.

over the finger board, but passing diagonally to the left of it, and which were struck with the thumb of the left hand, to serve as a base accompaniment to the notes sounded with the bow. The bridge of this instrument differs from that of a violin, in being less convex at the top, a circumstance from which it may be inferred, that two or three strings are to be sounded at the same time, so as to afford a succession of concords. The bridge is placed obliquely across the instrument, and one of its feet passing through the left hole of the sounding board, rests on the back, thus serving as a sounding post. There was also the crwth trithant, or three- crwth, w ed the other, not in shape but i paral

The *Pibcorn*, i. e.* hornpi from ticularly by the Welsh. T from ha its extremities tipped with horn. seven holes besides the aperture, and has a reed concealed w n. Its tone is a medium between the flute and the clarionet, and is a pastoral instrument. From this, that species of dance termed hornpipe, originated. Other instruments were used by the Welsh, but none are so properly to be termed their national instruments as the three already described. The pennill, or extempore stanza, was often sung to the harp: and in company, this instrument was handed round, when every man played an air, in which he was accompanied by the voice of the female seated next him. These instruments produced the merry dance, still a favourite amusement among the Welsh peasantry. These dances were extremely characteristic, and uncommonly lively. There was the war dance, and the peace dance, which were again subdivided into those representing the incidents of war, and all the usual employments of peace.

Their *music* is as varied and expressive as the language; much has been justly said in commendation of its peculiar beauties, and those who affirm that there is a sameness in all the Welsh airs, must have heard but very few specimens, or

* This is said to be scarcely used in any part of Wales beside Anglesea.

paid but little attention to the subject. A great simplicity pervades the Welsh melodies, yet they are distinguished by features as varied as the country; invented by an enthusiastic and impassioned people, they partake of all the wildness of unrestrained originality; sprightly and vivacious, plaintive and energetic, they are characterized both by Allegro and Penseroso, and equally adapted for Lydian as for Doric measures; most of the tunes are very ancient, and preserved in the traditional recollection of the country;* they show their composers to have possessed genuine skill in music, and that they knew how to warm the imagination, and interest the heart. Whether the muse delights in gay or mournful numbers, she may have her choice; and the expressive vibrations of the noble instrument the harp increases the pathos and solemnity. The vivacity of Joe Pulleine's Horn and Sir Watkin's Delight forms a fine contrast with the plaintive air of Dafydd ar Craig gwyn, and the solemn dirge of Morfa Rhyddlan.

Genealogy was in no nation, except the Hebrew, considered of so much importance, or carried to an equal extent. Indeed family distinction is pursued so far, that perhaps it induces the Cambrian to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. Pride of ancestry was a delicate and essential point amongst the antient Britons, and consequently they were more desirous of noble, than of rich connexions. So deeply was this principle rooted, that even the lowest classes of the people carefully preserved the direct and collateral descents† of their families, and were in general able from memory, not only to recite the names of their proximate progenitors, but to trace their various relations back through numerous generations. This, classed amongst the hereditary prejudices of the Welsh, has been supposed to arise from the mountainous nature of the

1 country,

* Mr. Jones has performed a work deserving the praise of all amateurs in music; by collecting and publishing a number of these in his "Musical and Poetical Remains of the Welsh Bards."

† As long as a Welsh pedigree is a proverbial adage for tenacity and tediousness in narration.

country, and the circumstance of the inhabitants living long in the same district. But a more rational cause may be found in the peculiar form of their ancient government and legal tenures. The laws of gavel-kind so dispersed property, and ramified heritable relations, that it was essential to correctly ascertain the consanguinity and affinity through the male and female lines to the utmost possible latitude. And though the same necessity does not at present exist for the usage, yet it must at least be considered as a venial defect in the national character; merely as an excess of laudable affection; since it may be observed, that he who is attached to high rank must feel some respect for the virtues of those by whom the distinctions were acquired. The five royal tribes of Cambria,* will furnish a kind of specimen, and serve as an elucidation of future allusions that will be made to distinguished characters.

I.

Gryffith ap Cynan, king of North Wales, is the first registered in our books. He was the grand-child of prince Jago ap Edwal, whose son Cynan was forced to fly into Ireland for safety, where he married Ranultt, daughter of Auloedd, king of Dublin, Man, and the Isles, and the relict of Mathganyn, king of Ulster, and had issue by her this Gryffith. † He beareth gules, three lioncels passant in pale barry argent, armed azure.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Wynnes.....of Pengwern, Merionethshire.

DESCENDANTS EXTINCT, OR IN THE FEMALE LINE.

Wynnes.....of Gwydir, Caernarvonshire.
of Wynnstay, Denbighshire.
of Bodscallen, and Berthddu } Caernarvonshire,
of Conwy..... }
of Maes Mochnant, Denbighshire.
of Ysymcegid
of Clynemney, Caernarvonshire.

* This is taken from a work entitled, British Antiquities revived, by Robert Vaughan, Esq. of Hengwrt.

† Most of his descendants give the coat of his son Owain Gwynedd, viz. vert, three eagles displayed in fess or.

Lloyd.....of Rhiwaedog, Merionethshire, now Dolben.
Powell.....of Penmachno, Caernarvonshire.
Davies.....of Tal-Llyntardeni, } Merionethshire.
Pryse..... of Yscarweddan,... }
Anwyl.....of Park.

II.

Rhys ap Tewdwr Mawr, (the second royal tribe), who took upon him the government of South Wales, A. D. 1077.

Gules, a lion rampant, or, within a bordure indented.

DESCENDANTS EXTINCT, OR IN THE FEMALE LINE.

Wynnes.....of Dole Bachog.
of Llan Erfyl Montgomeryshire.
St. Owen ap Gwilim of Tal-y-Llyn Merionethshire.
Wynn..... of Coed-Llai, or Leeswood, Flintshire.
Owen.....of Cefn Hafod.
Lloyds.....of Plâs uwch Clawdd, Denbighshire.
Powel.....of Ceidio.
Evans.....of Tre Gastell.
Jones..... of Haim.

III.

Blethyn ap Cynfyn, (the third royal tribe,) was king of North Wales, and Prince of Powys*, and after the death of Meredith ap Owain ap Edwyn, (prince of South Wales) he became king of all Wales. Or, a lion rampant gules, armed and langned, or.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.†

Kynaston.....of Hardwick, Shropshire.
Vaughans.....of Golden Grove, Caermarthenshire.

Lloyd

* Blethyn ap Cynfyn bob cwys,
Ei hun bioedd hen Bowys.

† The curious reader, who wishes for more information concerning this tribe, and its descendants, may consult a tract on the subject, lately published by Philip Yorke, Esq. of Erddig, a gentleman to whom the thanks of his country are due, for the great zeal he displays to illustrate its ancient biography.

Lloyd.....of Cwm-bychan, } Merionethshire
of Blaen Glynn, }

DESCENDANTS EXTINCT, OR IN THE FEMALE LINE.

Kynastons.....of Hordley.
of Ottley.
Kynastons.....of Morton.
of Llyn-y-Mapsis.
of Pont y-Byrsley.
Williams..... { of Hinchinbroke, Huntingdon, of whom Cromwell, the Protector.

Nanneys.....of Nanney, Merionethshire.
Maurices.....of Lloran, Shropshire.
Kyffins.....of Bodfach, Montgomeryshire.
of Maenan, Caernarvonshire.
of Glasgoed, Shropshire.
Tanats.....of Abertanat, } Montgomeryshire.
Meredydd..... of Glantanat, }
Powels.....of Whittington, Shropshire.
Jones.....of Treweithian.
Maesmor .....of Maesmor, Denbighshire.
Hughes.....of Gwerclas, Merionethshire.

IV.

Ethelystan Glodrydd, (the fourth royal tribe,) prince of the country* between Wye and Severn. He was the son of Cyhelyn ap Ifor, by Rhiengar, the daughter and heir of Gronw ap Tudor Trevor, from whom he had derived to him the title of the earldom of Hereford. Athelstan, king of England, was his godfather. Ethelystan, (or as he is sometimes called Elystan,) bore two coats quartered, azure, three boars heads caboched sable, langued gules, tusked or. His mothers's coat, parted per-bend sinister ermine and ermines; over all a lion rampant, or.

DESCENDANTS

* The country between these two rivers was anciently called Ferlys; and it had its own princes, independent of the princes of South Wales.

Elystan, bore two coats quartered, azure, three boars' heads caboched sable, langued gules, tusked or. His mother's coat, parted per-bend sinister ermine and ermines; over all, a lion rampant, or.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Clyn.....of Cery, of Bodfach, of Newtown, } Montgomeryshire
of Penarth.
of Park.
of Pilale, Radnorshire.
of Llanbister.
Olivers.....of Nevoddwen.
of Llangyniw.
Lloyds.....of Cery, Montgomeryshire.
of Mochdre.
Wynns.....of Gellidywyll.
of Llanfendigedd.
Owen.....of Rhiw Saeson, Montgomeryshire.
Philips.....of Llan Ddewi.
Vaughans.....of Bugeildy.
of Pant-y-Garreg.
Meredydd.....of Llanasan.
Owen.....of Morbend.
Morris.....of Cery, Montgomeryshire.
James.....of Croesgynan, Montgomeryshire.
Matthews.....of Blodwell, Shropshire.
of Mochdre.
Powell*.....of Westwyn and Ednop, Shropshire.

V.

Jestyn ap Gwrgant, (the fifth royal tribe) was prince, or lord of Glamorgan; he descended from Tewdric king of Gwent, in king Arthur's time. He lost his country to Robert Fitzhamon, and his twelve knights; whom, by the procurement of Einion ap Cadifor ap Collwyn, he had hired to come with an army to assist him against Rhys ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales, and Blethyn

* Of this family was Richard Powell of Ednop, (or, as it is sometimes written, Edenhope,) the poet, author of the Pentarchia, a short history, in coarse Latin verse, of the royal tribes of Cambria, and their descendants. The above-mentioned poem was composed about the year 1623. Prefixed to his dedication to the then Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles the First.

Blethyn ap Maenyrch, lord of Brecknock. As a judgment upon him, for his disloyalty to the said Rhys, his sovereign, God was pleased suddenly to punish treachery with treachery. Rhys and Blethyn, after a bloody battle, (not far from Brecknock,) were slain in the field. Gules, three cheveronels in pale argent.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Williams.....of Tame. Earl of Abingdon.
Newtons.....of Heathley.
Jones.....of Craflwyn, Caernarvonshire.
Myttley.....of Dôl in Edeirnion, of Dôl-y-Môch, of Myttley, } Merionethshire.

Prince Griffith ap Cynan, Rhys ap Tewdwr, and Blethyn ap Cynfyn, made diligent search for the arms, ensigns, and pedigrees of their ancestors, the nobility and kings of the Britons. What they discovered by their pains, in any papers and records, was afterwards, by the bards, digested and put into books, and they ordained five royal tribes, (there being only three before) from whom their posterity to this day can derive themselves; and also fifteen special tribes, of whom the gentry of North Wales are, for the most part, descended. And in our books we have mention of the tribe of March, &c. besides other tribes called Gwehelyth, and Gwehelaethau.

The following are the fifteen tribes of North Wales, from whence are descended some of the principal families, and landed proprietors of the country.

Marchudd, Braint Hir, Hwfa ap Cynddelw, Llowarch ap Brân, Cilmin Droed Tu, Ednowain ap Bradwen, Ednowain Bendew, Edwin ap Grono, Hedd Molwynog, Evnydd ap Morien, Macloc Crwm, Gwerydd ap Rhys Gôch, Marchweithian, Nevydd Hardd, Collwyn ap Tangno.

The names of Englishmen and others, who came to be possessed

* Lord Williams, of Tame, was made Lord President of the Marches of Wales, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth; and died, the same year, at Ludlow Castle, where the Courts of the Marches were then held.

sessed of estates in Wales, and have settled there for several ages. The Salisburies, the Palestons, the Herberts, the Bulkeleys, the Conways, the Hollands, the Thelwalls, OsbornWydel, Peke, Hookes, Langford, Griffith ap Jenkin, Idio Wylt, Gunter, Gray, Pigot, Here, Brereton, Yswittan Wyddel, Rodri, Garat, Groch, Twnkyn of Shocklidge, Newton, Doon, Dutton, Buttler, Strange, Brytaen, Lodlow, Herwr, Corbet, Bridges, Whyte, Gerard, Bowld, Ireland, Troughton of Bodlew, Twisleton, Ashpool, Lacie, Earl of Lincoln, Brereton of Burras, Knowsley, Rigston, Hanmer of Hanmer, Dolben, Panton of Bagillt, Vernon of Cheshire, Myrods, Bonville, Caster of Kinmel.*

* See Owen's British Remains, or a Collection of Antiquities relating to the Britons.

END OF THE GENERAL ACCOUNT OF CAMBRIA.

ANGLESEA or MONA*.

THIS island forming, according to the present political division of the kingdom, one of the six counties of North Wales, is situated to the north-west of Caernarvonshire, from which it is separated by a narrow arm of the sea, called the straits of Menai.—This district among the ancient Britons was known under different appellations, as Ynys Dowyll, or the Shady Island; Ynys y Cedeirn, from its heroes, or powerful druids; and Ynis Fôn, singly written and pronounced, Môn†, which the Romans latinized into Mona; and by this name it is distinguished in their writings. Anglesea, or the English Isle, was the name given it by the Saxons. This insulated tract of country, it is probable, originally joined the main land, for traces of an isthmus are visible near Porthaeth-hwy, where a line of rocks jets out nearly across the channel, in the broken interstices of which the sea, for about an hour or more, at the commencement of the flood tide violently fluctuates and foams, forming a very dangerous passage by the clashing of two currents, denominated Pwll Ceris.

This narrow ridge the sea daily attacking with its unruly waves, which gained accumulated force by the restriction of a narrow passage, soon undermined and forced its way, so as to become one uninterrupted channel. "It may well be affirmed, that this fret or river of Menai, to this mentioned middle place, is the original work of nature; or a great crack or fissure in the internal strata of the earth, at what time soever that happened

* The ancient name Mr. Rowlands supposes was the origin of the *Thule* of the Romans, and Anglesea the ultimate Thule; notwithstanding later geographers mistook another for it, when more remote islands were discovered by their navigators.

† So called from its site, or position in respect to other parts of Britain, and for mere confirmation of this conjecture, one may trace the sound Mon, in many other corners of this, and other countries, where we may presume the ancient Celtæ to have arrived; as if the first inhabitants of these western regions called those farthest points, or ends of land, which put a stop to their

pened. And though this channel might become one entire dividing arm of the sea, between these two lands in a few years after the flood, yet it may in no wise be granted to be then near so broad and so deep, as it is now; for we must allow the force and agitation of storms, the flux and reflux of tides, to have beaten and washed upon, worn and sunk away a great deal of the soft and earthy banks on each side of it; and the bottom also to have been consumed and hollowed by the sea's sharp acrimonious quality; so that it must be now much deeper and wider than at first we can imagine it to have been."*— Though the argument is not here supported by the most conclusive reasoning, this was probably the fact; for the Romans appear to have partially forded these straits, when they pursued the fugitive druids, and in a subsequent invasion of this island by the English, the cavalry made their advances at ebb tide or low water. This island, from its vicinity to the Isle of Man, and the facility with which a passage to that, or the coasts of Ireland might be obtained, was chosen by the druids, or British priests, during the persecution of the invading Romans, as an asylum which they fondly hoped would afford them a safe and undisturbed repose. But Roman ambition knew no bounds, and the druidical influence had occasioned the invaders to purchase their piecemeal conquests, at so dear a rate, that retaliating vengeance unsheathed its sanguinary sword, and with an inexorable vow of extermination, threw away the scabbard. Caius Suetonius Paulinus having overcome the Ordovices, who inhabited the adjacent country, resolved to pass over into Mona, and finish the war in this part of Britain, by extirpating the druids, who had selected it for their retreat. Having effected a passage over the Menai straits by flat-bottomed boats, and fording

progression, *Môn*, or *Bón*. Thus we find Cornwall called by the Romans *Danmonium*, and the furthest point of it is to this day called, *Pen-von-las*, or *clad*. The Isle of Man, Moneda. And in Ireland, the farthest part of it to the west, is called *Momonia*, or *Mown*." Rowlands's Mona Antiqua Restaurata.

* Rowlands's Mona Antiqua Restaurata. p. 5.

fording at low water during neap tides, the vigour, valour and superior discipline of the Romans easily overcame a race of unarmed people. But before he had completely effected the conquest of the island, his attention was arrested by a general insurrection of the countries in his rear, under the conduct of that celebrated heroine, Bonduca, or Boadicea.* The diversion this occasioned to the Roman army, afforded the remnant of the druids a respite of about fifteen years; when the island was again attacked, and at length totally reduced by Julius Agricola.† The Roman historian minutely particular on this occasion, for the attempt to ate their religion, under the appellation of the most horr erstition,‡ had occasioned the Romans an incalculable sum. of blood and treasure. The Britons now driven to the l remity, had to defend their sacred groves, temples, alt rs, and surviving priesthood. On such an extreme occasion it is not surprising, if the conflict were dreadful. Tacitus § descri s the British army, which lined the shores to resist the landing of the Romans, as surrounded, or rather accompanied by a her army of druids, composed of both sexes, in such confused numbers, that he designates them as *muliebre et fanaticum agmen*, or a multitude of viragos and madmen. From his relation, this last effort, pro aris et focis, appears to have participitated more of a grand religious spectacle, than of a pitched battle. The druids exhibiting some of their usages at their sacred ceremonies with uplifted hands, pouring out curses and vollies of unavailing execrations on the heads of the invincible Romans; while the women with dishevelled hair, and clad in terrific habits, rushed against the soldiery like furies, scattering among them firebrands, and death. But after an unequal, though desperate, struggle, the Druids and remainder of the inhabitants fell a lamentable sacrifice to the

* Taciti Annales, Lib. xiv.

† Tacitus in Vita Agricola.

‡ "Ob nefanda hæ sacrificia omnem druidum superstitionem tollere tentarunt Romani, sed frustra."

§ Annales, Lib. xiv.

the most extreme outrages, and fiercest cruelty, ever practised by the Romans; being thrown by command of the barbarous conqueror into their own sacrificing fires, igni suo involvunt*. To the whole of this interesting, yet distressing relation, given by one of the most accurate Roman historians, the numerous monuments of their sacred rites, the ancient names of places, and with many other indubitable circumstances, and indelible vestiges, afford ample and concurrent testimonies. To which may be added the common British epithet, applied to this island, " Mon mam Gymrie." Mon the mother, or nurse of Wales; for though this is by some supposed allusive to its former fertility, still it seems more applicable to the district, as having been the chief residence of the Druids whom the primitive unconquered Britons considered the parents of science, and the guardians of society. Immediately after this conquest, Mona, as part of the province styled *Britannia secunda*, became subject to the Romans, who have left in it some remains, though not of public or private buildings, yet coins, urns, and various utensils, sufficient to manifest, this island once formed a residence for that powerful and prudent people.

When the Romans entirely abandoned the country, the natives resumed the form of government under which they had lived, anterior to the arrival of the invaders. By this many princes were acknowledged at the same time in different parts of Britain, and the whole island was again divided into several petty sovereignties. About this period, A. D. 443, Caswallan the prince of Cumbria made choice of Mona for his residence; and being the eldest branch of the *Cynethian* line of British Druids

* After this event, some few of the Druids, which escaped the general massacre, are said to have retired to the Isle of Man, the Orknies, Hebrides, and Ireland, and driven out of these retreats in a subsequent period by Christian zeal, they sought an asylum in Norway, Iceland, and other regions of the north: at length the Druidical order was abolished, and the system universally abandoned, after it had for centuries established a boundless tyranny upon the ruins or prostration of human reason.

princes, he consequently possessed pre-eminence in dignity; the other Cambrian sovereigns, paying homage and obedience to him, as to their superior lord. Maelgwyn his son succeeded, from whom in a direct line sprung Cadwalader, the last king of the Britons. From this period the island of Mona formed part of the principality, or kingdom of Gwynedd, the kings of which made Aberfraw their chief place of residence. Egbert, who united the Saxon heptarchy into one government under the name of England, to retaliate the injuries committed upon his subjects by the Welsh, who had formed an offensive alliance with the Danes, invaded West Wales; and desolated the country as far as Snowden. He then advanced to Mona, and after having fought a most sanguinary battle with the Welsh forces at Llanvaes near Beaumaris*, he took possession of the island; which from this period "was called Anglesea or the Englishman's isle†" but it was shortly recovered under the auspices of the Welsh prince Mervyn.

During the reign of William Rufus over England, the Welsh having committed numerous depredations on the borders, a powerful English army entered Wales, and invading this island poured out upon the inhabitants a full measure of retaliative justice. In the twelfth century it greatly suffered again by the unnatural contests between Cadwalader and his nephew Howel, who had usurped the throne of North Wales. Shortly after it was ravaged by means of a similar contest between prince David and his brother Roderic‡. During the reign of Henry the first A. D. 1245 the Irish landed in Anglesea and

* Welsh Chronicle.

† This assertion of Mr. Warrington in his history of Wales, seems merely a probable conjecture; for in the Saxon Chronicle, where the name occurs it evidently refers to a transaction, subsequent to the Norman conquest. Bede speaking of this, and Man, calls them the *Menavian* isles, and represents the southermost, as exceeding in size, fertility, and population, and observes, both were tributary to Edwin, king of Northumberland.

‡ Welsh Chronicle.

for a time carried desolation and dismay before them, but not having been properly supported by the English, they were powerfully assailed by the infuriated inhabitants, and driven back with great slaughter to their ships.

As the renown of the North Wallian princes began, so it terminated in Anglesea. Here under Llewelyn up Gruffydd the last of this line, the army of king Edward the first passed the straits of Menai by a bridge of boats at the same place, where Julius Agricola had entered the island, centuries before*; and though the English were defeated, yet they afterwards obtained complete possession of this island; which so abridged and weakened the power of Llewelyn, that it led the way to the final reduction of the whole country.

Anglesea is surrounded by the Irish sea, except on the side where it is divided from the continent by the Menai straits, already noticed; on which are established, within the distance of fifteen miles, five ferries, viz. Abermenai the most southern, three miles to the north of which is that of Tal y Foel near Caernarvon; four miles further, Moel y don; three miles beyond which is Porthaethwy, commonly called Bangor ferry, over the narrowest part of the straits, the breadth there not exceeding half a mile; and the fifth and longest, at high water is between the village of Aber and the town of Beaumaris. The form of the island is very irregular, being indented with numerous small bays, creeks, and other inlets. The average length from north-west to south-east, is about twenty miles; the breadth from north-east to south-west, about sixteen; and the circumference, seventy-six; comprising about two hundred thousand acres of land. The county is divided into six hundreds, viz, Llyfon, Maltraeth, Menai, Talybolion, Twrcelyn, and Tyndaethwy, including seventy-four parishes, and four market towns, Newburgh, Beaumaris, Lanerchymedd, and Holyhead. By the returns made to government under the population

* This, according to Humphrey Lloyd, was at a place now called *Moel y don*, where is still one of the ferries into Anglesea.

population act, it appears, that the island contains 6680 houses and 33,806 inhabitants, viz. 18,031 females, and 15,775 males of whom 2614 were stated to be employed in trade and manufactures, and 9766 in the labours of agriculture. It is included in the diocese of Bangor, and province of Canterbury, and sends two members to the British senate; one for the county, and another for the town of Beaumaris. The climate is mild and more temperate, than the adjoining counties of North Wales, arising from the sea breezes; but owing to the same circumstance is incommoded with frequent mists in the autumn, which occasions a damp atmosphere at that season of the year, when the inhabitants are generally subject to intermittent fevers. The face of the country is different from other parts of Wales, having no lofty mountains, nor deep vallies, nor is it greatly diversified with hills or dales, and the interior parts being devoid of wood, the greater part of the lands uninclosed, and the inclosures seldom surrounded by quickset hedges, the country assumes a very dreary aspect: which induces at first sight an idea of great sterility: but this is by no means the actual case, for the soil is in general very good, and under proper management highly productive. Though it possesses no rivers of consequence, yet it is well watered, having twelve rivulets, flowing from small hills in various directions to the sea, on each side of the island, and affording to all parts of it a due proportion of moisture. Among the principal are the *Cevenney*, *Alau*, and *Fraw*, and *Dulas*.

Though destitute of navigable rivers it is so happily indented, as to possess numerous *harbours* *, which formerly

* From Harrison's description of Briton, Book I. chapter 10. it appears, that Anglesea was formerly a place of great trade; and the names of ports and havens yet remain, the use of which has been long lost. Indeed the situation in respect to other countries render it convenient for carrying on a coasting trade with the north-west parts of England, the south of Scotland, the east-side of Ireland, all parts of North and South Wales; and it is at least equal to many ports of the united kingdom, for participating in foreign commerce.

were, and with attention might become again, highly beneficial to the inhabitants. Beumaris is a good harbour and capable of considerable trade, and with its two creeks is esteemed a member of the port of Chester. To the north of Beaumaris is Red-Wharf bay, which at present is too much exposed to winds from the north-west: this inconvenience, however, might be removed by building a pier at Porth llangdy, and as plenty of stones are found in the vicinity, it might at a small expence be converted into a safe and convenient harbour. Two leagues further to the North is Dulas bay, at the mouth of Dulas river, narrow at the entrance, and incommoded with fragments of rock; but if those were removed it would serve as a small useful port: and there being lead mines adjacent the village of Dulas, might thus become of considerable importance. Proceeding northward, round St. Elian's point, Amlwch, that has lately been improved for the use of vessels, which transport the copper ore, dug out of Parys mountain, is still capable of much further amelioration, and exension. It is accounted a creek to Beaumaris. Cemlyn or crooked-pool-bay on the north side of the island might at a small charge be made a safe port, and a serviceable dock also there constructed; nature having done so much, that little assistance would be required from art, for its accomplishment. Holyhead, the station for the pacquet-boats, which form the communication between England and Ireland, is naturally a good port for sloops and other small vessels. But this, which is the other creek, to Beaumaris, might for about five thousand pounds be rendered a very good harbour for ships of large burthen, and thus made of general use to trade. Aberfraw was anciently a very excellent port, and by the erection of a pier of thirty or forty yards in length would become so again, and the sum for defraying such expence would be extremely trivial. Maldraeth or Maltraeth situated on the western side of the island, between Aberfraw, and the Menai, at the mouth of the river Cevenny or Kevenny might be very greatly improved. Were a good pier constructed at Dinas Lwyd commodious

modious anchorage would be afforded any where within it, even for large vessels; and a small pier under Bodòrgan for vessels employed in the coal trade, would in a short time render this a place of consequence; and the whole expence of such improvement rather fall under, than exceed, a thousand pounds*.

Anglesea was formerly well *wooded*, but from the exterminating system, levelled against Druidical superstition, or perhaps with a view of clearing the land for agricultural purposes, when it became essential to make the island the granary of † North Wales; most of the woods were cut down or burnt: so that, except on the parts adjacent to the Menai straits, little variety of sylvan beauty is visible; for the trees shrink beneath the force of the south-western blasts, and most of those growing in that quarter of the country appear in a stunted or blighted state. In the interior the country is entirely naked, for even fences are difficult to raise and very easily destroyed. But though the general scenery is little interesting to the traveller, yet when he has proceeded a few miles in a north westerly direction, by reversing his position, he will obtain a splendid view of the immense alpine chain of Caernarvonshire mountains; extending across that country from Penmaen, to Traethmawr, in one continued line, the contour of which is varied, at irregular intervals, by the numerous diversified peaks towering

* See observations on the sea coasts and harbours of Wales by Lewis Morris Esqr. who was employed under government to make the survey described: and which is a work replete with extensive information, and appears to have been drawn up with diligence and accuracy.

† After repeated disasters, suffered by the North Wallian princes in the dire conflictive struggle with the potent English; and the extent of Wales, by the different treaties greatly diminished; while defending the country in the fastnesses of Snowdonia, which was the asylum of their cattle, the Welsh looked to Anglesea for the necessary supplies of corn. And in the time of Edward the first, the English having by a bold manœuvre obtained possession of this island, the British prince Llewelyn, deprived of this usual resource, was with his army nearly reduced to the drendful prospect of immediate famine. Warrington's Hist. of Wales Vol. II. p. 206.

above the rest, till they gradually advance to the summit of Snowden; and then uniformly declining, till they terminate in the northern horn of Cardigan bay. As the traveller recedes from the position he first took, the connecting links of this noble chain are lost to the sight, and only the insulated summits appear like so many pyramids in the distant horizon.

" Now southward, Muse, on spreading pinions bend,
A lesser Snowden's verdant sides ascend,
That rears abruptly from the lucid deep,
Its stoney apex o'er the craggy steep.
The landscape's various charms the muse explores,
The Druid haunts, and Mona's hallow'd shores,
High Arfon soaring o'er the humbler isle,
The winding Menai—Daniel's mitred pile;
Thy towers Carnarvon—triple summits Llyn,
That distant close the vast and varied scene.
Below, amphibious man, as whim prevails,
Turns up his little back, and spreads his sails,
Or, led by florid health, descends to lave,
And skims the surface of the bracing wave;
Or frets the liquid azure as he floats
Where sister nations crown the busy boats*."

Wonderful stories have been related, respecting extraordinary productions and miraculous events, connected with the history of this island, at which, while reason smiles, she heaves a sigh over the deplorable folly that produced them. These, the offspring of gross ignorance, or perhaps too often the invention of a base designing priestcraft to further its covetous and nefarious practices upon unsuspecting credulity, demonstrate to what an extent the faculties of man may be debased, and how low the human mind may be degraded on the scale of rationality. The following, among many others, narrated by the companion of archbishop Baldwin through Wales in the twelfth century, will afford sufficient specimens; and however ridiculous they may at the first glance, seem yet they are highly

* Lloyd's Beaumaris Bay, a Poem.

highly important, as illustrative of the general character of that age, and the moral features of the great mass of society. Though the wonderful things related of these objects of superstitious veneration are referable to a period subsequent to the abolition of the Druidical worship, yet is it more than probable they had their origin in that religious system, and were a portion of those traditionary evils, which heathenism entailed upon christianity, when with contaminating errors it debased the purity of her doctrines.

"As many things within this island are worthy of remark, I shall not think it superfluous to make mention of some of them. There is a stone here resembling a human thigh, which possesses this innate virtue, that whatever distance it may be carried, it returns, of its own accord, the following night, as has often been experienced by the inhabitants. Hugh Earl of Chester, in the reign of King Henry the First, having by force occupied this island, and the adjacent country, heard of the miraculous power of this stone, and for the purpose of trial, ordered it to be fastened, with strong iron chains, to one of a larger size, and to be thrown into the sea; on the following morning, however, according to custom, it was found in its original position, on which account the earl issued a public edict, that no one from that time, should presume to move the stone from its place. A countryman also, to try the powers of the stone, fastened it to his thigh, which immediately became putrid, and the stone returned to its original situation.

There is in the same island, a stoney hill, not very large or high, from one side of which if you cry aloud, you will not be heard on the other; and it is called (by antiphrasis) the rock of hearers. In the northern part of Great Britain (Northumberland) so named by the English, from its situation across the river Humber, there is a hill of a similar nature, where if a loud horn or trumpet is sounded on one side, it cannot be heard on the opposite one. There is also in this island, the church of Saint Tefredaucus, into which Hugh earl of Shrewsbury (who, together with the earl of Chester, had forcibly en-

tered Anglesea), on a certain night put some dogs, which on the following morning were found mad, and he himself died within a month; for some pirates, from the arcades, having entered the port of the island in their long vessels, the earl apprised of their approach, boldly met them, rushing into the sea upon a spirited horse: the commander of the expedition Magnus, standing on the prow of the foremost ship, aimed an arrow at him, and although the earl was completely equipped in a coat of mail, and guarded in every part of his body, except his eyes, the unlucky weapon struck his right eye, and, entering his brain, he fell a lifeless corpse into the sea; the victor seeing him in this state, proudly and exultingly exclaimed, in the Danish tongue, "Leit loup," let him leap: and from this time the power of the English ceased in Anglesea*.

THE NATURAL PRODUCTIONS of Anglesea are multifarious, and many of them highly valuable. Among the subterraneous productions are found various kinds of ochre for the purposes of painting, diversities of potters clay, white, and yellow, fullers earth; numerous varieties of breccia for mill-stones; quantities of grey, and white marble, simple and variegated, equally adapted for sculpture and ornamental architecture as some, imported from distant countries at a great expence. In the north-west part of the island near Camlyn bay, where is safe anchorage for small vessels, in the parish of Llanfair-in-hornwy, was long found the *asbestine* marble, the stone being intersected with veins of a wonderful incombustible substance. But the quarries, since Mr. Pennant's time, are quite disused. Mr. Aikin says "having heard that at Camlyn bay, there were some marble quarries, and that it fnrnished asbestos; we resolved to spend this day in visiting it: the road in general lay about half a mile from the coast, the substratum was waved green magnesian slate. When we arrived at Camlyn bay, we looked in vain for marble, or asbestos†." Some small fragments

* Hoare's Giraldus Vol. II. p. 103.

† Journal of a Tour &c. p. 113.

ments the writer of this, discovered in the year 1800. A green amianthus or brittle asbestos, Mr. Pennant observes, "is found in great plenty in a green marble near Rhoscolin;" but from the inflexible nature of the fibres it is not applicable to the same uses as the elastic kind. Promising veins of excellent coals have been discovered and worked in several parts of the island. Lead, and copper, have been found in Parys mountain; the latter so abundant as greatly to enrich the proprietors, support much productive industry, and diffuse emulation, with consequent comparative wealth, among numbers of the people.

The sea, is no less bountiful, than the land; for not to mention the immense quantities of ore, wreck or sea weed, that might be manufactured into excellent kelp, it furnishes numerous kinds of fish, as herring, cod, whiting, turbot, soal, plaice, crabs, lobsters, oysters of different kinds, of which the large ones in the beds near Penmon, are highly esteemed; and after being pickled and packed in casks are exported to a great distance. So that if the inhabitants of this island should want, they must incur the censure, conferred on their progenitors by Leland. "There is a good commodity for fishing about all Tir Môn; but there lacketh cunning and diligence."

The island of Anglesea is celebrated for some of its rare productions, and more especially for the variety of its shell fish, particularly crabs. The places from whence the latter are principally to be obtained are the rocky coasts about Llanddwyn, Rhoscolin, Holyhead, and Penmon; and the best times for discovering them are at low water, during the spring tides, which sometimes rise and fall near twenty feet. The mode is to turn up the stones, near low water mark, under which they will be found to lurk, hidden among the sea weed. The shells are principally taken in the dredges of the oyster-catchers betwixt Beaumaris and the island of Priestholme, and in Red Wharf bay." The following list of the principal of these productions, furnished by an intelligent writer is probably accurate

curate and shows what a feast this part of the country affords to the naturalist, as well as mineralogist.

Cancer pisum,	Pea crab.
——— longicornis,	Long-horned crab.
——— velutinus,	Velvet crab.
——— platicheles,	Great-clawed crab.
——— phalangium,	Slender-legged crab.
——— pagurus,	Black-clawed crab.
——— mœnas,	Common blue crab.
——— gammarus,	——— Lobster.
——— strigosus,	Plated lobster.
Aplysia depilans,	Depilatory aplysia.
Doris electrina,	Amber doris.
Aphrodita minuta,	Little aphrodita.
Actinia sulcata,	Sulcated actinia.
Asterias oculata,	Dotted star-fish.
——— hispida,	Hispid star-fish.
——— lacertosa,	Lizard star-fish.
——— sphærulata,	Bearded star-fish.
Eschinus esculentus,	Sea hedge-hog.
Solen vagina,	Scymeter razor-shell.
——— pellucidus,	Pellucid razor-shell.
——— legumen,	Sub-oval razor-shell.
Cardium echinatum,	Echinated cockle.
——— lævigatum,	Smooth cockle.
——— edule,	Common cockle.
Pecten lævis,	Smooth scallop.
——— glaber,	Furrowed scallop.
Mytilus incurvatus,	Crooked muscle.
——— pellucidus,	Pellucid muscle.
——— umbilicatus,	Umbilicated muscle.
Voluta tornatilis,	Oval Volute.
Murex costatus,	Ribbed whelk.
Trochus cinereus,	Cinereous top.
——— majus,	Tuberculated top.
Turbo lævis,	Smooth wreath.
——— terebra,	Augur wreath.
——— fasciatus,	Fasciated wreath.

Patella intexta,	Inclining limpet.
Sabella alveolata,	Honey-comb sabella*."

From the island having been long a grand thoroughfare to Ireland, possessing plenty of materials and other concomitant circumstances, the ROADS are generally very good; and what is not usually the case in Wales; *direction posts* assist the passing stranger at almost every division or crossing of the communications. Since smuggling, which used formerly to be carried on here to an amazing extent, by the vigilance of government has been nearly suppressed, husbandry in general has been laudably attended to, and the *agricultural* state of the country experienced many additional improvements, highly beneficial to the landholders, and the kingdom at large. The soil is various†, but principally a fine loamy sand, which under proper treatment is highly productive. The general fertilising substance adopted as a manure is lime or marine sand, and though in many places the earthy stratum is but shallow; yet the farmer obtains very considerable crops, both of grain and grass. Corn and cattle therefore constitute the chief products, and in favourable seasons large quantities of barley and oats are exported, either to Liverpool, or the main land: and many thousand head of cattle, exclusively of sheep and hogs, pass over the different ferries of the Menai, for the English markets. The island possesses great capabilities, for a considerable portion of land remains for want of draining in a swampy state, and many of the flat lands lying adjacent to the sea are covered with sand, which at no great expence might be converted into rich grazing meadow land, and much at present remaining in an unproductive state might profitably be appropriated to the culture

* Bingley's North Wales, vol. I. p. 341.

† The soil may be classed into three sorts, viz. sandy, stiffish loam, and a black kind, approximating to peat-earth: the latter generally terminates in peat bogs, forming useful turbaries. Interred in these are frequently found numerous trees, the remains probably of the Druidical forests, and some of them remain so sound, as to retain a capability of being split into lathes for the use of builders.

culture of hemp and flax. About the middle of the century before the last there were exported yearly from this island, about three thousand head of cattle, and a proportionable quantity of butter, cheese, corn, and other provisions. According to the latest account that we have, the exportation of black cattle is risen to about fifteen thousand: besides which they commonly spare five thousand hogs, and a great number of sheep, to the continent (reserving still in the isle a stock of thirty thousand head of cattle) four thousand quarters of corn, with considerable quantities of honey, wax, tallow, hides, and some woollen and linen cloth*.

The population of a country is, in general, as good a comparative criterion of its flourishing, or declining state, as can perhaps be obtained. The number of the inhabitants in this island about the middle of the century before the last, was computed at 12,000; and the houses 1840; but they so considerably increased, that in the year 1776, the number of houses amounted to 3956; which allowing five persons to each family the number of inhabitants would be 19,780; wanting only 4220 of a *redoubled* population, within the intervening space. Since that period it will be seen by the numbers from the census, published under the sanction of parliament, the increase has been still more rapid.

With respect to *manufactures*, there are none of any considerable importance. The few linen and woollen cloths made in the island, furnish instances rather of private industry than sources productive of public profit. But though at present Anglesea has little to boast in this particular; it did not always rank so low. The progressive rise, decline, and revival of trade, if they form no very remarkable epochs in its history, yet afford a few useful hints on a subject peculiarly interesting to the judicious inquirer into the welfare of his country, and the means of its improvement.

Elucidatory of this subject are the following extracts taken from an able statistical work compared with other statements.

"In

* See history of Anglesea.

In A. D. 1544, the thirty-sixth year of Henry the eighth, there was a loan to that prince, in which Anglesea paid one hundred and ninety five pounds; when the county of Rutland, which is about half the size paid but one hundred and thirty six pounds. A. D. 1584, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when there were ten thousand trained men raised in the kingdom, Anglesea furnished fifty, and Rutland forty; and ten years before, upon an exact muster, the able men in this island were found to be three hundred and seventy. To this let me add, that by a strict inquisition taken in the forty fourth year of the same reign, A. D. 1602. it appeared, that the revenue drawn from Anglesea amounted but to four hundred and twenty-five pounds a year; whereas it was found, by a like inquisition, in the fiftieth year of Edward III. A. D. 1376, to produce annually eight hundred and thirty-two pounds. In the reign of King Charles the First, when writs were issued, for the sums to be respectively levied for ship-money, through the counties of England and Wales, Anglesea paid four hundred and sixty two pounds, when Rutland paid eight hundred. This certainly is, a great improvement, in the space of a century. But notwithstanding that, we can still render it more than barely probable, that all things taken together, this country was in a far better state under its ancient princes: for when, in the beginning of the reign of Edward the First, A. D. 1277, Prince Llewellyn was forced to conclude a treaty with him, he engaged to pay fifty thousand pounds to obtain the King's favour, and an annual tribute of one thousand marks for the island of Anglesea; which is more than equal in value to the land-tax of that country at present, when it pays four shillings in the pound. Besides all this (because the King's army had reduced the best part of the isle before he submitted) he undertook to pay down five thousand marks on his being admitted into quiet possession. If, therefore, we consider, that this was after undergoing the charge and inconveniencies of a long scene of bloodshed and confusion; if we reflect, that the prince was to have his revenue besides, and advert also to the value of money,

money, compared with the necessaries and conveniencies of life in those days; we must conclude, that the subjects, from whom all this was to be taken, were numerous, and in tolerable circumstances." Much therefore it is evident remains to be done both in the amelioration of the soil, and by the encouragement of manufactures, to restore this island to its pristine prosperity.

BEAUMARIS,

THOUGH a small place, is the capital of the county, and finely situated on the south-eastern part of the island, on a low shore of an admirable roadsted called Beaumaris bay. Included within the parish of Llandegvan, or Llandegfan, little doubt can be entertained, but the present town originated from the circumstance, of a castle having been erected here about the close of the thirteenth century, by king Edward the first; for nothing is heard of it anterior to that period, except, that on the site, of the present fortress, in a low marshy spot, stood a small oratory, denominated St. Meugin's chapel; and at the same epoch, the name of the place was changed from *Bomover* to *Beaumaris*, that is the fine or beautiful marsh, from the French word *beau*, fair, and *marais*, a marsh. Others derive it from the former epithet, and joined to *mer* the sea, allusive to the fine road for shipping near it: and both assign as an argument for such derivations, the affectation so evident amongst the English, long subsequent to the Norman conquest, of designating persons and places by *French* appellations, as Beauclerk, De la Mere, &c. &c. But a no less ingenious conjecture is the one, which supposes it may refer to its natural position, between two seas, or near the point, where two powerful tides contend for fluctuating mastery*.

Evidently

* *Bimaris*, Horace applies to the city of Corinth, from a similar circumstance:

"Laudabunt alii clara Rhodon, aut Mitilene
Aut Ephesum bimarisve Corinthi
Mœnia."

LIB. I. OD. 7.

Evidently the castle was the parent of the town, and consequently the history of both must be intimately connected. The erection of this fortress was subsequent to its two proud rivals upon the same straits, Conway, and Caernarvon. The necessity of a third strong hold, within so small an extent, arose from Rhyddlan on the opposite shore, often being in possession of the Welsh princes; the facilities afforded by Anglesea, for supplies of provisions, and as a retreat in disastrous times for the discomfited Cambrians; among whom there still existed a strong insurrectionary spirit, and an ardent desire of regaining their independence. A. D. 1277 Prince Llewelyn was constrained to sue for peace, after a long desultory warfare. This was granted by king Edward the first upon the following humiliating conditions. "That Llewelyn should pay to the king for his favour and good will, 50,000 marks; that the cantref Rôs, where the king's castle of Teganwy stood; the cantref Ryvanior, where Denbigh is; the cantref Tegengle where Ruthlan standeth; and cantref Dyffryn Clywd; where Ruthyn is should remain to the king and his heirs for ever; and that the prince should yearly pay for the isle of Anglesea 1000 marks, which payment should begin at the Michaelmas next ensuing; and that he should also pay 5000 marks out of hand; and if the prince died without issue, the island should revert to the king and his heirs. The prince was also required to come to England to do homage*. The insults attendant on this submission of the prince and his attendant nobles at the court of London, and the irascible sense of degradation, led to an insurrection far more formidable in its aspect, than the one preceding the state of humiliation, that induced it. The theatre of war was transferred to Anglesea, and the desperate and successful stand made by the Welsh in the vicinity of Beaumaris, the defeat of the favourite scheme of Edward's in the complete reduction of the country to his yoke, and the loss he sustained on that occasion, probably excited his attention to prevent such disasters in future, by the erection of a formidable fortress, which

* Rymer's Fœdera vol. II. p. 88.

which might at any time facilitate his advance over the Menai, or cover his retreat to the strong hold of Rhyddlan. But the death of Llewelyn with that of his brother David soon after, manifestly for a time diverted the design of the English monarch; and the birth of the prince of Wales in Caernarvon castle, which occasioned the subsequent formal submission of the principality to the English government, by removing all suspicion of revolt, apparently precluded the consequent necessity. If, as observed by Mr. Grose, the castle of Beaumaris was erected in the year 1295, then it is highly probable, that the insurrections under Rhys ap Meredydd, Maelgwyn, Vychan, and Madoc, about the year 1290, while the English monarch was engaged in a serious dispute, with the king of France at Guienne, again suggested the expediency. On Edward's return he proceeded in person to Conway to meet the insurgents; whom having completely routed, he crossed over the Menai with his army into Anglesea; where he erected "a strong fortress, which he called *Boumarish*, as a check to the natives of that island*."

From the period of erection to the time of Charles the first it does not appear to have been at all conspicuous on the page of history. The first governor appointed by the founder, was, Sir William Pickmore, a Gascon, who was long constable of the castle and captain of the town. It is said to have been extremely burthensome to the country, occasioned by the frequent quarrels between the garrison and the inhabitants of the vicinity. The governor had an annual stipend of forty marks, afterwards increased to forty pounds, and the garrison usually consisted of twenty four men†; which from complaints made against

* Holinshead's Chronicle.

† After the siege in 1648 the annual salary of the constable is stated at 40l. of the captain 12l. 3s. 4d. and each man 4d. a day. But out of this a proportionable deduction was to be made for letters and intelligence, and for the gratification of *itinerant preachers*, who came out of the adjacent counties to the island for the spiritual instruction of the inhabitants by preaching and prayer.

its general misconduct, an order, of removal was sent to Sir Rowland Villeville,* the constable in the reign of Henry the Seventh. From that time the garrison was wholly withdrawn till the year 1642, when the earl of Dorset being constable, his deputy, Thomas Cheadle Esq. furnished it with men and ammunition, and made every possible preparation for putting the place in a respectable state of defence in favour of royalty. Thomas, the first lord Bulkeley, having succeeded to the constableship, his son, Colonel Richard Bulkeley, assisted by several gentlemen of the county, held it for the king till the year 1648; at which time the whole island had risen en masse for the purpose of endeavouring to aid in the restoration of the unfortunate monarch's affairs. About this time several diversions were made for the purpose of setting at liberty the king, then a prisoner in Carisbrooke castle, in the Isle of Wight. Particularly two powerful ones, by the Welsh under Sir John Owen, and the Scotch, headed by the duke of Hamilton: therefore the islanders supposing, they had an equal right in their monarch, and his future destiny, and being equally desirous of defending their ancient liberties, as any of their fellow subjects; determined not to be behind them in their exertions on behalf of injured and insulted royalty. Resolutions were immediately drawn up, and it was deemed proper by a council of war, that a general declaration should be published, subscribed by all the inhabitants, from the age of sixteen to sixty. This curious document, more expressive of the virulence of party, than calculated to retrieve the ruined state of the king's cause, is couched in the following terms:—

"We the inhabitants of the isle of Anglesey, whose names are hereunto subscribed, after mature consideration, and hearty invocation of the name of God for directions and assistance, do remonstrate and declare to our fellow-subjects and neighbours whom it may concern, that we having, according to our bounden duty and allegiance, preserved the said island in due obedience

* This Knight, who assumed also the appellation of *Brittayne*, was a reputed illegitimate son of Henry the Seventh.

to our most dread sovereign Lord, king Charles, during the time of this intestine war and rebellion, and, by God's blessing upon our careful endeavours, defended the same until the enemy had over-mastered the whole kingdom (a few strong holds excepted) this being the only county of England or Wales, for two months together kept entire, under his Majesty's authority and command; and being then, through the vast number of men and horse threatened to be poured in upon us (finding no possible expectance of relief) enforced to submit to the then prevailing power; do now, out of conscience towards God, and loyalty towards his anointed, with all humbleness prostrate ourselves, our lives and fortunes, at his Majesty's feet, resolving with the utmost exposal of all that we are or have, to preserve the said island, together with the castle and houlds therein, in due obedience to his sacred Majesty, his heirs and lawful successors, against all rebellious opposers and invaders whatsoever; and do also, with sincerity of heart, profess that we will, according to our several degrees, places and callings, maintain the true protestant religion by law established, his Majesty's royal prerogative, the known laws of the land, just privileges of parliament, together with our own and fellow-subjects legal properties and liberties. And we also do farther declare and protest, that we shall and will account all those that do, or shall stand, in opposition hereunto, to be enemies and traitors to their king and country, and accordingly to be proceeded against, being most ready to contribute our best abilities for their reducement, and reinstating of our gracious sovereign (who hath long endured the tyranny and oppression of his barbarous and bloody enemies to his rights, dominions and dignity, according to the splendour of his most illustrious progenitors. Given under our hands the 14th day of July, 1648."*

But though this strong remonstrative memorial was drawn up against the wickedness of rebellion, and the royal standard joined by numerous bodies of armed men, mustered from various parts of North-Wales, and headed by the nobility and

* Then follows a numerous list of signatures, &c.

and gentry, who professedly were determined to carry resistance to the last extremity; yet from want of unanimity, treachery, or cowardice, when the hour for the trial of their patriotism arrived, courage and loyalty instantly vanished from their ranks; a general dismay and discomfiture ensued: and the troops, unable to make much effectual resistance against the formidable force, employed for the reduction of the fortress, under the command of General Mytton, was obliged to surrender; but obtained from the besiegers honourable terms of capitulation. Articles of agreement were drawn up, and signed by the parliamentarian commissioners, and those appointed for the purpose by the governor of the castle, on behalf of the inhabitants of Anglesea*. The garrison surrendered on the second of October 1648†, and on the ninth of the same month, instruments were interchanged, by which it was stipulated, that the estates of persons within the island should be relieved from sequestration, on condition of their paying one twenty-fifth of their value; and that they should be permitted to compound for the same, after the rate of two years income for all estates of inheritances, and for smaller estates in proportion. This mulct was to be liquidated by instalments, and the first sum paid into the hands of Colonel George Twistleton amounted to 7000l. of current English money. This payment was made within fourteen days after the surrender of the castle, and the money

* In the castle were found goods, arms, ammunition, &c. &c. amounting, according to a partial valuation, to the sum of 3301 3s. 4d. which were delivered up to General Mytton by Sir Richard Bulkeley.

† Mr. Pennant observes, that Colonel Sir Richard Bulkeley, and several gentlemen of the county held it for the king till June 1646; when it surrendered on honourable terms to General Mytton." See Tour in Wales Vol. III. p. 30, Octavo Edition. A manuscript penes me, synchronises with this date. The above account in the text is extracted from a description of the general rising in Anglesea, and the taking of Beaumaris castle, drawn up by the Rev. Mr. Williams, master of the grammar school, in the year 1669, to which the reader is referred for a more circumstantial account of the capitulation and the concomitant events, which led to the submission of the whole island to the parliamentarian commissioners.

statedly appropriated "towards the satisfaction of two months pay to the officers and soldiers, employed in the present expedition; and other charges incidental." By a manuscript account it appears the second was to a larger amount.

"An assessment of the second payment of 9000l, *commutt* money paid by the inhabitants of Anglesea in Cromwell's time*."

Ld. Bulkely and son, Col. Bulkeley	1000
Mr. Hu Owen	700
Mr. O. Woods	500
Dr. Whyte	1000
Mr. Bold and his nephew (Bold)	500
Mr. Pierce Lloyd	500
Mr. O Holland	200
Mr. Wm. Trefarddw	50
Jno. Owen Maethlu	50
Wm. Owen Trefoelir	50
Lewis Lloyd, Capt. of Menai	60
Henry Lloyd Penhenllys, Captain of Tindacthwy	16
Henry Dafydd, Captain of Twrcelyn	50
Richard Bodychen, Gent.	80
Henry Owen Mosoglen	50
Dr. Williams	50
Mr. Jn Bodrel at Mr. Thelwal's	600
Mr. Jno Wynn Chwaen	50
Mr. Wm Bulkeley Coedan (first 200)	5
Richard Pryddarch and his son	200
Mayor Pugh	20
	5731

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Collector.

After the castle had been ceded to the parliamentarian forces, General Mytton appointed Captain Evans his deputy constable of the fortress, and lieutenant governor of the town. On the death of General Mytton, Hugh Courtney was nominated to the

* Who was supposed to assess in all 20,000. Manuscript penes Paul Panton, Esq. Plas Gwyn.

the situation, to whom succeeded the notorious Colonel *John Jones*; a character in which hypocrisy was so predominant, that it would be a difficult task to be under the necessity of deciding, which of the vices, in a moral view, constituted the paramount feature. The following unpublished letter, contrasted with the tenour of his conduct, will at once corroborate this statement, and elucidate the general complexion of the times.

Copy of a Letter from Major General Jones, one of the leading men in O. Cromwell's forces, to Captain Wray, Lieutenant of Beaumaris Castle.*

CAPTAYNE WREY,

"I had noe tyme by the last post to write unto you, as touching the two men you mention to bee continued in Prison for stealing ye leades of ye castle. I have advised with the advocate general, and he tells me they cannot be tryed by martiall Law, without being sent upp hither with witnesses, soe that the way to proceed agst. them, is by putting them out of the list, and then cause them to be conducted and proceeded against att the Sessions, and likewise those that bought the leade of them—But if you conceive them to be penitent, and there is any hope of their reducement to a civill life, you may lett them return to their dutie, and continue the list upon their good behaviour, and forbear further proceedings agst. them. This I leave to your discretion.—I intend to allow Edwd. Gregrie for his encouragement to continue in the Garrison, ten pounds per annum to bee payd him quarterly, and the first fiftie shillings to be payd him now in May, which I intreate you to pay him. I understand likewise, that there are some few people in your Towne that meete often together to seek the Lord, and to improve each other in the knowledge and feare, and worship of

 God.

* Vide, "Historia Bellamarisci" by the late Rev. William Williams Rector of Llandegfan, and the annexed chapelries, an unpublished manuscript penes Paul Panton, Esq. of Plas Gwyn.

God. I would have you to pay them fiftie shillings to bee by them att their meeting distributed, as they shall judge fitt either for the relief of their Poor, or otherwise as shall bee most conducible to the advancement of that good practize, I would have you likewise to pay to the hand of Cornett Jaffrey Parry, who dwells near Pwllheli in Caernarvonshire, five pounds which is to bee distributed by him, and those that walk in the fellowship of the gospel in that countie, in such a way as may bee most for the encouragement of such as carrie on the worke of the gospel there, whether it bee by relieving their poor, or otherwise, and Twentie pounds more I would have you to pay unto such persons as shall come for it, and are appointed to receive it by a note under Mr. Morgan Lloyd's hand, which is intended for the like use in other places where there is neede. There will bee as I take it 12l. remaining in your hand, beside the two men's pay which I leave with you till things bee better settled, or an opportunitie given mee to come to visit the garrison—I have noe more to trouble you,

Your assured friend,

April 28, 1657. JO. JONES."

The successor of Jones was Sir John Carter of Cymel, in Denbighshire, who received the appointment from General Monk: a commission, which from the known moderation of Carter, appeared, as it proved, symptomatic of the public inclination, and the approaching restoration. In the year 1653, the estimated annual expence of the garrison amounted to seventeen hundred and three pounds. On the accession of Charles the Second, Lord viscount Bulkeley was re-instated as constable of the castle, which at present is the property of the crown, and the custody vested in Sir Robert Williams

Beaumaris Castle, like the style of architecture displayed in Edward's other fortresses, participates more of the eastern, than the western mode of building. It was erected upon lands belonging to several proprietors, whom the king removed to distant places, remunerating them by estates, probably sequestrated

rated from some of the late insurgents.* This spot was fixed upon with a view of surrounding it with a fosse, for the double purpose of defence, and bringing small craft to unload their cargoes under its walls for the use of the garrison. Part of this canal, till very lately, was visible under the name of *Llyn y green*, and the chains for mooring the vessels, at the quay .The lowness of the site, the expansive diameter of its circular towers and bastions, together with the dilapidated state of its walls, deprives this structure, though a prodigious one, of that prominent character, and imposing effect, so strikingly apparent in the prouder piles of Caernarvon and Conway. The shape approaches to an oblong square, comprising a case, encircling the castle. This outer ballium consists of low but massy embattled walls, flanked by ten circular bastion towers; one very large at each angle, and three of lesser dimensions in the intermediate spaces, on the north and south sides. Admission was obtained by two entrance gateways; the one to the west is formed by a large pointed arch between two strong square towers, defended by two other collateral ones of dissimilar shape. This was furnished with portcullises, and evidently formed the sallying postern. The principal entrance, facing the sea, is formed by two circular bastion towers, between which a pointed arched way was fortified with four portcullises: on the left rises a large square tower, and on the right is a curtain, or a long narrow advanced work, embattled and machicolated at top, intended for the defence of those employed on the canal for the supply of

* The king found the land, which he had selected for the purpose in possession of the descendants of Gweryd ap Rhys Goch, Eineon ap Meredydd, Gryffydd ap Evan, and Eineon ap Tegeryn. These proprietors he removed by a writ of Excambium; the first to Bodlewyddan, in the county of Flint, and to the three others he made a grant of lands, free from rent and services, in the townships of Erianallt and Tre'r Ddôl: and the remainder of their possessions he bestowed on his new corporation. In this transaction the monarch seems to have acted legally, by rendering par pro pari; but in equity it does not appear, how he obtained the lands given in exchange.

the garrison. Under an arch in this work, passed the wet fosse or moat surrounding the whole; and the barges or vessels might deliver their cargoes by a communication through an aperture in the upper part of the arch. The rings for mooring chains still remain in the walls of this projection, which is called the Gunner's walk. Within this fortified envelope, at a considerable equidistant space from the walls, stands the principal body of the castle, which is far superior in height to the envelope; and at a distance appears to rise majestically from it, as the base. Its form is nearly quadrangular, having a grand round tower at each angle, and the connecting curtains are flanked with another circular one in the centre of each face. The interior consists of an area, one hundred and ninety-feet square with obtuse corners, or, as described by Mr, Grose. " a square with the corners cantled off." The centre of the north west side consists of a magnificent hall, in length seventy feet, breadth twenty three, and of a proportionate height; with a range of five large pointed windows constituting a handsome front to the inner quadrangle. On the eastern side of the area are the remains of a chapel in form of a small theatre, the sides ornamented with receding pointed arches; and an elegant groined roof supported by ribs, springing from pilasters, between which are three lancet-shaped windows. A communication was made between various parts of the inner court, by means of a surrounding gallery about six feet wide, a considerable portion of which is at present intire. Within recesses, gained out of the thickness of the walls, in the sides of the gallery are several square apertures, apparently once furnished with trap doors, which opened into rooms beneath; but as no vestiges of descending steps are discoverable, it is difficult to ascertain their intended use. Mr. Grose surmises they may have been used for similar purposes, to which the two circular eastern towers were applied, viz. the confinement of prisoners. Emblematic that the reign of terror is gone, and that the spot, is

" Where earth is loaded with a mass of wall,
The proud insulting badge of Cambria's fall,

By haughty Edward raised: and every stone
Records a sigh, a murder, or a groan,"

is no longer formidable; a handsome tennis, fives court, and bowling green have been formed within the interior, for the amusement of those resident in the vicinity: and instead of dwelling upon the supposed horrid massacre of the Bards.

" The Muse delighted, owns a happier fate,
When no portcullis shuts the guarded gate;
When walls that echoed to the plaints of woe
Repeat the milk-maid's song, the cattle's low;
And where the embattled legion erst was drawn,
Exulting reason feasts upon the lawn*."

LLOYD.

The *Town* of Beaumaris by the command of Edward, after the erection of the castle, was surrounded with walls for its defence; and every encouragement was given by that monarch for the rendering it a place of importance, adequate to the attention he had paid, and the expences he had incurred. It was placed under the protection of a corporation for the administration of civil justice, and other municipal regulations; and endowed with great privileges, and lands to a considerable value. The estates of four principal territorial proprietors, removed under the political mandate for constructing the castle, were granted to be held by the corporation *in capite* of the king, and among numerous other favours and immunities, conferred on the inhabitants, were the following, viz, That they shall have a *free prison* in the castle. That no *Jews* shall dwell there. That if any of the said burgesses die, testate or intestate, their goods shall not be confiscated to the king; but their *heirs* shall have the same. These, to persons, living in the present highly privileged age, may not appear of that weight and consequence, as they did to those suffering under the oppression of feudal privation, and the tyranny of arbitrary exaction: and to enable

* The castle field forms part of Lord Bulkeley's grounds.

enable persons properly to appreciate their value, an extensive acquaintance with the ancient laws, respecting property, compared with the existing liberal system of British jurisprudence, is an indispensible requisite. The darkness is past, but to render it visible, the eye, must be withdrawn from the light, and an extended retrospect taken through all the shades of its gradual adumbrations and dimness. Encouraged by such fostering care, and under the auspices of future monarchs, it is probable Beaumaris became a thriving and respectable place. Two centuries ago, it appears to have possessed some commercial importance, for Sir John Wynne, in characterising the inhabitants of the three castellated towns on the Menai, describes them, as " The lawyers of Caernarvon, the *merchants* of Beaumaris, and the gentlemen of Conway." And Mr. Lloyd supposes that a century and a half ago, it was a place of considerable traffic, from the local tokens, circulated by its opulent tradesmen, as substitutes for copper coin, and which were common at that time in trading places. The present town consists of several streets, of which one, terminated by the castle, is very handsome, and the houses in general are well built.

*The site of St. Meugan's** is still shewn in a field, near the new battery; but at present not the smallest traces of the building are visible. This was the chapel of ease to LLANDEGFAN, prior to the building of the chapel of St. Mary, or the chantry of our lady at Beaumaris; subsequent to that time, the former was gradually deserted, and finally fell into utter decay. Formerly a wake, or annual festival was kept on the spot, which for some years has been discontinued.

The Chapel of St. Mary, now the parochial church of Beaumaris, is a handsome structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two aisles, with a large square embattled tower. The north is called

* This person is described in Welsh manuscripts as, " Meugan hên ap Cyndaf gwr o'r Ital. Bonedd y Saint. That is, Meugan the ancient son of Cyndaf, an Italian. Mr. Owen says, " This Cyndaf, or Cyndav, came to Britain about A. D. 70, with the family of Bran, the blessed, when he returned from Rome, where he had been hostage for his son, Caradog, and which was the means of introducing christianity into this island.

called St. Mary's chapel, and the south that of St. Nicholas. In the chancel is a monument worthy of the traveller's notice. On an elegant altar tomb, lie two recumbent figures, well sculptured in gypsum or alabaster; the one a knight in armour with his head resting on an helmet, and a lion couchant at his feet; and a female figure by his side is habited in a long robe, richly ornamented round the neck: the hands of each are placed in a supplicating posture, and the feet pointing towards the east. Various diminutive figures, clad in the costume of monks and knights, decorate the sarchophagus of this singular monument, which is said to have been removed from Llanvaes, at the dissolution of that religious house; but as the arms, emblazoned on the surrounding pendent shields are obliterated, it is impossible to conjecture to whose memory it was originally erected. Mr. Pennant gives no positive information on the subject, nor could Sir Richard Colt Hoare meet with any historical documents respecting it, nor on what occasion it was placed in Beaumaris church. A *clue* may, however, be given to some admirer of sepulchral research, by stating, that on the south side of the altar a large mural oblong tablet bears the following devices, and inscriptions. At each angle near the top are two shields, encircled with the motto, *Honi soit qui mal y pense;* and under the one to the left, this inscription: "HENRICUS SYDNEY, ORDINIS GARTERII MILES PRÆSIDENS EX CONSILIIS MARCHIIS WALLIÆ DOMINUS DEPUTATUS IN HIBERNIA. Under the other, ANTONIUS SANTLEGER ORDINIS GARTERII, MILES QUONDAM DEPUTATUS IN HIBERNIA. Round a circle in the centre, GULIELMUS THWAYTES ARMIGER; and beneath in an horizontal line, OBIIT 20 DIE JANUARII, 1565. Below are two escutcheons, the one bearing this inscription, FRANCISCUS AGARD EX CONSILIIS HIBERNIÆ, the other EDVARDUS WATERHOWS ME POSUIT. At the bottom this motto,

NOSCE TEIPSUM FIDE ET TACITURNITATE*."

In

* Sir Henry Sydney had been lord deputy of Ireland, but died in England, A. D. 1586, and was interred at Penshurst in Kent. Beauties, Vol. VIII. p. 1302.

In the vestry adjoining were deposited the remains of lady *Beatrix Herbert*, daughter of the celebrated mirror of chivalry, the lord Herbert of Cherbury, historian of Henry the Eighth's reign. Near which lies interred the *Revd Gronwy Davies*, the concluding lines of whose epitaph form a fine contrast to one on a plain stone in the church-yard, quoted for its whimsicality by Mr. Bingley.*

" Who has been our parish clark
Full one and and thirty years, I say,
Must here, alas! lye in the dark
Bemoan'd for ever and for aye."

GRONWY DAVIES.

" Here lies learning, friendship love;
Here lies innocence of the dove,
Within this grave and in this dust
His ever-courteous body must
Until the resurrection lie;—
Then he shall live, and *death shall die.*"

THE FREE SCHOOL was erected, and liberally endowed in the year 1603 by *David Hughes Esq*†. whose liberality also extended

p. 1302. Holinshead says, he went twice to Ireland, and on each occasion was furnished with a new secretary. The first was Master Edward Waterhouse, who was knighted and made one of his majesty's council in Ireland; and the other was Master Francis Agard, whom, for his fidelity, Sidney styled his *Fidus Achates*. Sir Anthony St. Leger was lord deputy of Ireland in the year 1539.

* North Wales, Vol I. p. 331,

† This beneficent man was born in humble life, about the middle of the sixteenth century, in the parish of *Llantrisaint* in Anglesea. Leaving the island early he was engaged in a menial station; but by prudence and perseverance accumulated in England a decent fortune, with which returning to his native place, he disposed of in acts of charity, and forming benevolent institutions. It is a subject of regret to the grateful part of mankind, that some register were not published, with biographical notices of such persons, who by their beneficence and wealth have distinguished themselves and enriched posterity, in erecting religious and charitable establishments; as well as those,

tended in 1613, to the founding an excellent alms-house for six poor persons, to whom he granted small annuities. These apartments are situated about a mile out of the town, near the lodge gate to Baron-hill park, the noble proprietor of which has liberally extended the designs of the founder, by the addition of four others.

THE OLD TOWN HALL, built in 1568, under which were carefully kept the stocks, the ducking stool, and adjoining, the pillory, was a few years since taken down; and those instruments of civic justice, long held in terrorem, removed. On the site by the munificence of Lord viscount Bulkeley, has been erected a commodious and elegant *town hall*. The basement story includes a prison, and excellent shambles, secured with iron gates and railing. Above is a noble room, with other apartments, for the transaction of municipal business; the latter used for assemblies, is the finest ball-room in the principality. The town reincorporated in the fourth year of Elizabeth, is governed by a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, twenty four burgesses, two serjeants at mace, a town, clerk, gaoler, four constables, and a water bailiff. It sends one member to parliament, and differing from every other Welsh borough, the elective franchise is vested in the mayor, bailiffs and capital burgesses, the common burgesses having no vote; the number of electors is consequently twenty-four.

The mayor is the returning officer, and lord Bulkeley, in a political view is considered the patron.

THE COUNTY HALL is a small low building, which both in appearance and accommodation evinces a strong claim upon the county gentlemen for a new and better edifice; nor in either of

who have benefited society by their writings. The following just tribute of praise, alluding to the above character, is both poetical and chaste.

"Again the active worth of Hughes appears
A blest Asylum for the wreck of years!
If there, his views the opening mind engage.
Here, he supports the trembling limbs of age;
His breast embraced within its Godlike plan,
At once the morn, and evening hours of man."

of these views is the general provincial prison in a more respectable condition.

The Custom-House stands on the green near the water's edge, and is the comptrolling office not only to the different ports on the island, but also to those on the Caernarvonshire side of the Menai.

Beaumaris is much frequented during the summer months by numerous genteel families, incited to take up a temporary residence here, for the sake of enjoying the pleasurable scenes this delightful part of the island affords; and for the salubrious benefits of sea-bathing. The sands are fine, but the beach is too much exposed to the vessels lying in the port, or passing the straits; especially while the accommodations are only dressing boxes fixed on the shore, no proper bathing machines having yet been introduced.

Two markets, on Wednesday, and Saturday, are well supplied with provisions, and the population, according to the late Census in the year 1801, amounted to 1576, and the number of houses were 267.

*Beaumaris Bay** consists of a very expansive opening in front of the town, and is so completely sheltered by the island of Priestholme and the great Ormeshead, that vessels of considerable burthen may ride in safety, during the most stormy weather, and forms a fine roadsted to ships navigating the Irish sea. The depth of water near the town is at ebb-tide from six to seven fathom; but the channel is narrow, scarcely exceeding a quarter of a mile in breadth. The greater part of the bay for several miles, when the tide is out, is left dry, and denominated the *Lavan Sands*. These are supposed to have once formed a habitable hundred, belonging to the territory of Arfon, which was overflowed by the sea in the sixth century.† Nor is the tradition

* Anciently called *Porth Wygir*.

† These sands received the appellation of *Wylofaen*, or the place of weeping, from the shrieks and lamentations of the inhabitants, when it was suddenly overwhelmed by the sea, in the days of Helig Voel ap Clunog, or Glanog. *Lavan* is an abbreviation, or corruption of *Traeth Telaven*, or the fermented heap: allusive to the boiling up of the waves though the quick sands!

tradition improbable, for numerous proofs may be adduced of the ocean having encroached upon this part of the coast. In the church-yard of Abergeley, a village in Caernarvonshire, Mr. Pennant mentions, a stone bearing an inscription, relative at least to such progressive drepedation*. But a more convincing proof is the various trunks of oak trees nearly intire, which have been discovered at low water, lying in an extensive tract of hard loam, far from the present sea boundary. A more corroborative argument, because subject neither to conjecture nor misconstruction is, that there exists the clearest evidence that what is denominated Beaumaris *marsh*, extended a further way into the sea; and that within the two last centuries the boisterous element has made considerable ravages on these shores. A manuscript document†, written in the time of James the First, contains a terrier and description of various parcels of lands, situated in this vicinity, with their valuation; among which, are the following, though there does not exist at present, the least traces of such lands.

"A certain parcel of land on the sea shore, extending from a place called Osmond's Air, (the point) towards Cerrig gwyddel (the park) unto the sea."

"All the king's Fish-yard of Limekylne, beneath Beaumaris until Ferryman's Wharf, with the appurtenances."

"A certain pasture upon the sea shore, between the said wier, called Limekyln, and the house of Fryers at Llanfaes."

"The site of a wier and fish-yard at Osmond's Air."

"Hewster's wier, below the British brook Afon y Felin."

"But by reason, of the quantity of inhabitants, the decay of houses, the great mortality of late years, and other sad accidents, the premises do not amount to so much as before."

These are arguments sufficiently illustrative, that the sea has been exerting its inundating powers on this part of the coast; and from whatever latent causes, has gained very considerably upon

* This will be particularly noticed in its appropriate place.

† Quoted in a Note to Lloyd's Beaumaris Bay.

upon the land. Though many geologists are of opinion, that the advances and retreatings are reciprocal; and some extend that opinion to local cases.*

The ferry appears to have been considered the property of the crown as early as the time of Edward the First, and being a grand pass into Anglesea from the Snowdonian chain of natural fortifications, political necessity would be an inducement to aim at insuring the command of such a communication. In the reign of Edward the Second, a mandate was issued to Robert Power, Chamberlain of North Wales, to inspect into the state of the boat, then reported out of repair; and if it were found capable of being repaired, it was to be made sea-worthy at the expence of the bailiwick; but if the boat were in an irreparable state, a new one was to be built, and the cost allowed by the king. From this document it seems the crown was liable to furnish the boat†, though at the same time the inhabitants of Beaumaris, for the privilege of a ferry, paid annually thirty shillings into the Exchequer. The ferry was granted by charter to the Corporation, in the fourth year of Elizabeth; yet till within a few years past, the townsmen paid a similar chief rent for plying with boats below the green. The ferry lies near the town; and the place of embarking or landing, is the point anciently known under the appellation of *Penrhyn Safnes*, but afterwards Osmund's air; so called from a malefactor, who was executed there, and on his way to the fatal tree with hardened effrontery, observed, he was only going to take the air. After passing the channel, the distance over the sands, to Aber in Caernarvonshire,

* Mr. Rowlands supposes, that the depredations of the soft yielding parts of the shores of this island, have been compensated by the defensative banks it has thrown up in numerous instances. "Near Beaumaris the point, called *Osmond's Air*, and the *green* by the town are a mere collection of small pebbles, landed there by the underlating tempestuous force of the sea; though between these two beaches a considerable piece of land was, in lieu of what is stored up there, ravished and consumed away by the insulting element, to the very walls of the town."

MONA ANTIQ. REST. p. 6.

† Seabright's MSS. quoted by Mr. Pennant.

Caernarvonshire, the usual point generally made, is four miles. These at low water are firm and good walking, and the time proper for passing is two hours before and after ebb. Not to be disappointed, or subject to peril, passengers this way, should be acquainted with the particular and diurnal state of the tides. The natives have certain rules, which serve tolerably well for their general direction. These they commit to memory, and are similar to the following englyn.

" Yn nydd, y Lleet newydd, ar naw-o'r glôch
Y gwlych y llanw eithaw;
Y llawn ddydd, y llanw a ddaw
I'r nôd lle bu 'r newidiaw

At nine o'Clock of Luna's change
'Tis full sea on the shore;
And on the day that Luna's full
'Tis full sea the same hour."

This calculation was made for the *Traeth mawr*, but is equally applicable to the Lavan sands, allowing one hour later. The following table is a more accurate guide.

BEAUMARIS LAVAN SANDS.

Moon's	*Age.*	HIGH WATER. *H.*	*M.*	LOW WATER. *H.*	*M.*
1	16	11	18	5	6
2	17	12	6	5	54
3	18	12	54	6	42
4	19	1	42	7	30
5	20	2	30	8	18
6	21	3	18	9	6
7	22	4	6	9	54
8	23	4	54	10	42
9	24	5	42	11	30
10	25	6	60	12	18
11	26	7	18	1	6
12	27	8	6	1	54
13	28	8	54	2	42
14	29	9	42	3	30
15	30	10	30	4	18

N. B. That the moon's age being taken notice of by the rule in this table, you may obtain the time of high water at the

 aforementioned

aforementioned place. Observe when the moon is one or sixteen days old, it is high water at Beaumaris at 18 minutes past 11 o'clock. The day of the moon's age you have in the 6th column, on the left hand page of the calendar.

These precautions are essentially incumbent on the traveller to take; for during the intervals of tide, which precede the time of the sands being covered with the sea, they are frequently shifting, in many places become so quick, as to be very dangerous, and instances have occurred of persons having been lost, by imprudently attempting to cross them at such times. Equally perilous is the pass during foggy weather; but to prevent accidents, as many are obliged to adventure in all kinds of weather, a wise and humane regulation has been adopted: the large bell at Aber is rung, during the continuance of fog, to direct by its sound passengers to that line across the sands, passable with safety.

Between these sands and the town a narrow channel about one fourth of a mile wide has from six to seven feet depth of water at ebb-tide. The *bay* which lies before the town has good anchorage for ships of heavy burthen, having seven fathom at the lowest ebb. Notwithstanding this local advantage for maritime adventure the place has none, or very little trade, and depends principally for support on the numerous vessels, which lie here waiting for winds, or that run in, during heavy gales, to find security.

Baron Hill, the seat of *Thomas James Warren Bulkeley, Lord Bulkely*, is situated on an eminence above Beaumaris, at the head of an extensive lawn, sloping down to the town and castle, and finely screened and backed with umbrageous woods, that form great embellishments to this part of the island. The house was built in the year 1618, by Sir Richard Bulkeley, a most distinguished character in the reign of James the First*: Being

* This eminent personage, the ancestor of the present peer, was a descendant of a very ancient family, originally settled in Cheshire, where they possessed considerable estates. Previous to the period in question, the family

Being a great favourite of the eldest son of that monarch, prince Henry, whom his father had appointed viceroy of Ireland, Sir Richard began to erect a magnificent mansion at Baron hill, for the reception of his royal friend on his progress to the vice-royalty: but the premature death of the young prince so affected him, that he ceased to prosecute the original plan; contenting himself with what was already completed; for his future family seat. The house has been greatly enlarged and improved, by its present noble possessor, under the direction of *Mr. Samuel Wyat.* Nothing can perhaps exceed the situation of this mansion, as to eligibility; but the site and the structure by no means correspond. The height is too great both for the elevation of the ground, and the extent of the base. There is also a great deficiency as to the proportionate range of the different stories, and a want of uniformity between the tiers of windows. Destitute of a vestibule, the semi-circular central front appears meagre, and the two side doors savour too much of an entrance to a theatre. The kind of conical slated roofs, visible above the parapet walls present an unseemly appearance at a distance, and add to the confined effect of the upper stories. Mr. Knight justly observes speaking of the appropriate situations for domestic buildings, "There are scarcely any buildings, except bridges, which will bear being looked down upon, a fore shortning from the roof to the base, being necessarily awkward and ungraceful*." Had he viewed Baron Hill, he might have been furnished with another architectural canon, that few structures except castles, if very lofty, and erected upon eminent sites, will admit of being looked up to; the two combined elevations, producing a continuation of height apparently distorted, like the human shadow in a declining sun. In justice however, to the skill of the scientific architect, and the judgment of his noble employer, it is proper to observe, that in this, as in numerous other cases, observant persons are

 prone

family residence in Wales, was at a mansion called Court-mawr, in the subjacent town, and afterwards at Plas hên.

* An Analytical Inquiry into the principles of Taste, Part II. p. 22.

prone to decide upon the display of taste, as though it had no limits; and the exertions of art, as though they were unrestrained. The site was already fixed by the previous erection, and the alterations were to be made on a building, that formed a part only of an intended structure, far exceeding the present in extent and grandeur.

The grounds surrounding this charming residence, are richly diversified by nature, and variegated by art; the lawns, groves, and bridges, with other ornamental buildings, except in one instance, finely disposed; and the numerous walks and rides, judiciously laid out. But the view from Baron hill far surpasses all, and is justly the boast of the island.

> " Now Muse ascend the sylvan summits gay
> That tower above the town—the valley—bay
> Where now unheeded lies the heap of stones,
> The altar's ruin and the mouldering bones;
> The soil once softened by Contrition's eyes
> On all that's mortal of St. Meugan lies,
> Who blindly thought, that pain's inflictive rod
> Would lead the lonely hermit up to God."
>
> LLOYD.

At a small distance from this consecrated spot is a semicircular bastion fort, mounted with four-pounders, and from this part of the elevation, the prospect is enchantingly gratifying. The sea to the northward forms a most magnificent bay, between the coast of Lancashire, and the isle of Man, the Menai opening into it, between the Orme's head and Priestholm, with all the grandeur of an American river. The limits of the water, in front, expand into a vast amphitheatre, formed by a semicircular range of mountains, piled on each other, the chief of the Snowdonian range; while their diversified summits, spiring to the clouds, seem to intermix with them; and their cultivated sides, and richly verdant bases at length, gradually sloping to the margin of the wave, pleasingly relieve the eye, fatigued with the strenuous ken, over sterile sublimity. The distant alpine ridge, that flanks the eastern side of Nant Francon, the

huge protrusive promontory of Penmonmawr, with its attendant Penmon bach, and the enormous mass of Llandudno, rising like an island out of the sea, are rude, but striking features in the prospect; and afford strong and impressive contrasts to the softer parts of the scenery.

"I was sorry to observe the effect of the elegant view of the Welsh mountains, from the house totally destroyed by the small square building in front, called a fort*. I cannot conceive how gentlemen should suffer themselves to be so much misled, as to have their agents, without an atom of taste, construct these, singularly called, ornamental buildings. The present is a white church-like castle, an apparent excrescence evidently useless, and glaringly unnatural. Lord Uxbridge has one of these white ornamental structures, on the side of the Menai, opposite to Plâs Newydd: but superior to all that I have ever seen of this description, is that of Mr. Thomas, of Coed Halen, which provokingly obtrudes itself into almost every good view of the fine old walls, and castle of Caernarvon. If any of these buildings are to be defended, as I know some of them are, on the score of their being land-marks to the mariner, my objection must cease; utility must ever be considered to supersede elegance. But this is not often the case; lord Uxbridge's building is far distant from the sea, and other eminences near Caernarvon might have been adopted besides the present, standing, as it does, almost close to the castle. A friend of mine remarked, to some observations that I had made on this subject, that, in a tour through South Wales, he had almost invariably observed, that the only rage for spoiling the scenes by these strange monstrosities, was where the surrounding country was more than usually beautiful. Near old castles,

* Bingley's North Wales, p. 337. In an old plan of Beaumaris, on this eminence there appears a much more picturesque object as a building, a windmill. The removal of which has long been a subject of general regret to the neighbourhood, especially the poor, who, during the summer months are obliged to incur additional expence and trouble by having their corn ground across the Menai, at Aber, and other places.

or monastic remains, he had generally been provoked with a deformed castellated pleasure house, or a lately erected ruin, nd invariable in the very place from whence of all others it should have been kept away."

LLANVAES or LLANFAES PRIORY, now called the *Friars*, was a monastery, founded about the year 1237, by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, prince of North Wales, over the spot where his princess, who died that year, according to her own desire was interred*. This princess, who was the natural daughter of king John, by a lady of the noble house of Ferrers, had been given by that monarch in marriage to Llewelyn, as a reward for the due observance of a treaty with the English in the year 1203; or, as a means of securing those future advantages against his rebellious nobles, in the marches, which he mighr suppose would naturally result from such an alliance. This unfortunate daughter of a more unfortunate father, is said to have had an illicit amour with William de Bruce, lord of Buellt, the avowed and open enemy of Llewelyn; for which infidelity she was shut up in prison, and her devoted paramour suffered an ignominious death, by the command of the injured husband. Whether she were innocent†, according to the statement of some writers, or the

* A son of a Danish king, lord Clifford, and numerous barons and knights, who fell in the Welsh campaigns, were also buried here, Leland's Collectanea, vol I. p. 65. Here also were deposited the remains of Gryffyd Grygg, an eminent poet of Mona, who flourished from about A. D. 1330, to 1370. He was the able opponent of the British Ovid, Dafydd ap Gwilym, as appears from Gryffydd's monody, written by his generous rival.

† The general tenour of her conduct appears to have been exceedingly amiable. More than once, was Cambria indebted to this lady, for effectually holding out the olive branch betweeen her husband and father; especially at one desperate crisis. "At this time, 1212, The king passing the river of Conway, encamped there by the river side, and sent part of his army with guides of the country to burn Bangor, which they did, taking Rotpart the bishop prisoner, who was afterwards *ransomed for two hundred hawkes*. Then the prince seeing all England and Wales against him, and a great part of his country won from him, thought it best to entreat with the king, and thereupon he sent Joan his wife to her father, to *make a peace*, who being a discreet woman found the means. Powell's Hist. of Wales, p. 265.

the amorous monarch, on her contrition, forgave the frailty of the fair, certain it is, either as a tender memorial of regard, or to do honour to the princess's memory, out of respect to her brother Henry, king of England, that he erected this mark of posthumous attention: which renders, the criminal part of her conduct at least doubtful, and may in some degree serve to wipe away the deep stain, which history has cast upon her fame. The monastery was consecrated by Howel, bishop of Bangor, who died in the year 1240, and dedicated to *St. Francis**. The Monks were of that division of Franciscans, usually denominated *minor*, or from going without shoes, *bare-footed*, friars. Their church and some other parts of these houses were destroyed, and their lands devastated by the English troops, who had quelled an insurrection, excited by a chieftain, named Madoc, soon after the death of the last Llewelyn. In consideration of their misfortunes, Edward the Second, remitted their accustomed taxes, which previous to the war formed an annual levy of twelve pounds ten shillings. During the rebellion of Owen Glyndwr, the religious of this house either did favour the pretensions of that military adventurer to the sovereignty of Wales, or were suspected of doing so; in consequence of which, king Henry, on his first taking the field against the Welsh Chieftain, put several of the friars to the sword, carried away prisoners the rest, and plundered the convent. The monarch, however, feeling some compunction for this outrage upon the church, committed in the ebullition of his rage, against what he deemed the vilest perfidy, set at liberty the ecclesiastical captives, and made restitution to the house: but repeopled it with recluses from an English monastery. His son, Henry the Fifth, added some farther regulations, making

* "I am informed that on the farm of Cremlyn Monach, once the property of the friary, is cut on a great stone, the effigies of its patron St. Francis; and that his head is also cut on the stone of a wall in a street of Beaumaris, to which all passengers were to pay their respects under pain of a forfeit." Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 35.

a provision for eight friars, with a condition, that six should be English, and two Welsh. At the dissolution, the convent and its possessions were disposed of by Henry the Eighth to one of his courtiers. On this occasion posthumous changes evinced, that human vicissitude is not confined to the living, but also extends to the dead. The body of Princess *Joan*, which for near three centuries had been suffered to rest undisturbed, and over whose tomb propitiatory masses had been continually offered up to heaven, were doomed no longer to be requiescent under the hallowed roof. The ferocity of the times converted the sacred building into a *barn*, ejected Joan from her little tenement, and the stone coffin in which the remains of royalty had been deposited, was placed near a small brook, and for the space of two hundred and fifty years used as a trough for watering the horses belonging to an adjacent farm! Lord Bulkeley lately, however, very laudably caused it to be removed from that unhallowed state of degradation, and it is now placed under a small gothic building in the park at Baronhill.* The family of Whyte, now extinct, afterwards possessed the Friary, and built on the site a respectable house, which has since been enlarged, modernised, and the grounds improved. At present it is a seat belonging to *Sir Robert Williams*, representative in parliament for the county of Caernarvon. No vestiges of any part of the monastery are traceable, except the chapel, still used as an outhouse. Over an arched gateway, in an inner court, is a shield charged with the arms, cut in stone, of *Collwyn ap Tagno, lord of Efionydd and Ardudwy*, sable a chevron between three fleurs de liz argent. He was founder of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and ancestor of the last resident family. The date beneath, 1623, is probably allusive to the time when the religious house was converted into a private residence. Llanfaes, by which name the friary was designated,

* This precious relique of antiquity is preserved a little to the north of the house. The sides, ends, and bottom, are four inches thick, the length, inside, about five feet eight inches, the widest breadth eighteen inches, and ten inches deep.

signated, and the present parochial church, was so called from a desperate conflict which took place near this spot, between the Saxons under king Egbert,* and the Welsh, led on by the brave *Merfyn Frych*, who had married Essyllt, heiress of North Wales, daughter of Cynan Tindaethwy. The West Saxon monarch, after having over-run various parts of Wales, invaded Mona; and, as though he supposed partial seizure equivalent to permanent possession, he gave it a severating denomination, "*Anglorum insula*," an English isle; but he was soon driven from his newly acquired territory by the determined bravery of the Welsh, with great loss; leaving nothing indicative of his power, but an empty name.

Tre'r Castell, now occupied as a farm house, is an old castellated mansion, for centuries the residence of the descendants of *Marchudd*, lord of *Uwch Dulas*, in Denbighshire. Here also,

> "In days, when outrage occupied the hour,
> When law and justice bent the knee to power,
> The chieftain's safety was the moated wall,
> The hero's helmet and the crowded hall."
>
> Lloyd.

lived in a style of magnificent hospitality, in the thirteenth century, Sir Tudur ap Gronwy. This valiant and patriotic knight was one of the great landed proprietors who, holding their estates *in capite* of the crown, did homage to Prince Edward, as the first Prince of Wales, at Chester, in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward the First. Of this distinguished character, the following anecdote is recorded in the Welsh history. "The King (Edward the First) hearing, that Sir Tudur had assumed the honour of knighthood, without his permission, called him to

* Saxon Chron. 72. This valuable document simply mentions a battle having been fought on the spot. That it was *Egbert* is highly probable, from the synchronism and the circumstance of having carried his arms as far as Mona; which no other Saxon monarch before him had done. Caradoc of Llangarfan, styles it "The sore battle of Llanfaes." Powell's Hist. of Wales, p. Turner in his History of the Anglo-Saxons is silent on the subject.

to an account for so extraordinary a procedure: Sir Tudur replied, that by the laws of the *Round Table* he had a right to do so, having the three requisites—first, he was a gentleman—secondly, he had an ample fortune—and thirdly, as to his prowess, he was ready to fight any man, be he whom he would, that was hardy enough to dispute it; the King, admiring the dignity of his manner, confirmed to Sir Tudur the honour he had so justly assumed, and so well deserved."* His three sons, Ednyfed of Tre'r Castell, Gronwy of Penmynydd, and Rhys of Arddreiniog, were styled the three *temporal* lords of Anglesea; the three *spiritual* ones being, the archdeacon of Anglesea, the president of Holyhead, and the prior of Penmon.

In a monody, composed in memory of this personage, he is styled—

"Trafn Tre'r Castell feddgell Fyddgar."
The support of the plentiful *mead* cellar at Tre'r Castell.

The Welsh were particularly fond of a beverage, called Hydromel, Metheglin, or *Mead*; and Queen Elizabeth, descended from this house, not fancying the article could be manufactured so well elsewhere, had a large quantity annually imported from Wales for her own use. The following curious receipt for brewing this potent liquor is given in an ancient Welsh manuscript. "Gather a bushel of sweet brier leaves, and a bushel of thyme, half a bushel of rosemary, and a peck of bay leaves: these being well washed, seethe them in a furnace of fair water; let them boil the space of half an hour, and then pour out all the herbs and water into a vat, and let it stand till it be but milk warm, and strain the water from the herbs; and to every six gallons of this water, put one gallon of fine honey, and put into the *boorn* (that is the wort or boiled liquor) and labour together half an hour, then let it stand five days, stirring it twice or thrice a day: then take the liquor and boil it anew, and when it doth seethe, skim it as long as any scum remaineth; when it is clear, put into the vat as before, and there let it be cooled.

* Powell's Hist. of Wales.

cooled. You must have in readiness a kind of new ale or beer, which as soon as you have emptied, suddenly whelm it upside down, and set it up again, and presently put in the Metheglin, (N. B. this in room of yeast) and let it stand three days a working, and then turn it up in barrels, tying at every tap hole (by a pack thread) a little bag of beaten cloves and mace, to the value of half an ounce. It must then stand half a year before drank."

At a small distance from Tre'r Castell, is CASTELL ADER LLIENAWG, where are the vestiges of a small ancient fort, at the back of a neat farm house, near the sea beach. From the remains it appears to have been fortified by a circular tower at each angle, with a square tower or keep in the centre. The whole was surrounded by a deep foss, and a hollow, probably once a covered-way, extends to the shore, and at the termination is a large artificial mound, on which was a redoubt, intended as a defence for covering the landing of troops and stores. This fortress was founded, in the year 1098, by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and Hugh, the red-headed Earl of Shrewsbury, when they leagued together against the Welsh, attacked Anglesea, and by the treachery of Owen ap Edwyn, father-in-law and chief counsellor to prince Gryffydd ap Cynan, succeeded in over-running the island; where they committed more savage barbarities on the poor natives, than ever stained the annals of any country. The particulars of the invasion are thus related in the Welsh Chronicle.

" The year following being 1096, Hugh de Montgomerie earle of Arundell and Salopsburie, whom the Welshmen call Hugh Goch, that is to say, Hugh the red-headed, and Hugh Vras, that is Hugh the Fat, earle of Chester, and a great number of nobles more, did gather a huge armie, and entred into North Wales, being thereto moved by certaine lords of the countrie. But Gruffyth ap Conan the prince, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, took the hilles and mountaines for their defence; because they were not able to meet with the earles, neither durst they well trust theire owne men. And so the earles came over

against the ile of Mon or Anglesey, where they did build a castell of Aberlhiennawe. Then Gruffyth and Cadogan did go to Anglesey, thinking to defend the ile, and sent for succour to Ireland; but they received verie small. Then the treason appeared, for Owen ap Edwyn (who was the prince's cheefe counsellor, and his father-in-law, whose daughter Gruffyth had married, having himselfe also married Everyth, the daughter of Conryn, aunt to Cadogan) was the cheefe caller of these strangers into Wales, who openlie went with all his power to them, and did lead them to the ile of Anglesey, which thing when Gruffyth and Cadogan perceived, they sailed to Ireland, mistrusting the treason of theire owne people. Then the earles spoiled the ile, and slew all that they found there. And at the verie same time, Magnus, the sonne of Haroald, came with a great navie of ships towards England, minding to laie faster hold upon that kingdome than his father had done, and being driven by chaunce to Anglesey, would have landed there, but the earles kept him from the land. And there Magnus with an arrowe stroke Hugh earle of Salop in the face, that he died thereof, and suddenlie either part forsooke the ile, and the Englishmen returned to England, and left Owen ap Edwyn, prince in the land, who had allured them thither.*"

In the time of Charles the First this fortress was garrisoned and defended, for the Parliament, by Sir Thomas Cheadle; but was taken by Colonel Robinson in 1645, or 1646.†"

Penmon Priory, about a mile to the north-east of the former, is similarly situated, near the sea shore. The founder of the monastery was Maelgwyn Gwynedd, king of Wales, in the sixth century, and the religious of this house, and with the recluses of Priestholm, appear to have belonged to the same foundation: both being in old deeds denominated, "*Canonici de insula Glannauch.*" Idwal, a son of Gryffydd ap Cynan,‡ prince of North Wales,

* P. 156.

† Plas Gwyn MSS. quoted in Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 37.

‡ This prince, like many in the days of superstition, willing to make provision for eternity, by posthumous charity, bequeathed legacies to a number of

Wales, was prior of Penmon in the year 1140, who is described by the poets, as the "sunshine of the country." Before the year 1221, it was refounded, or subjected to new regulations, by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, filled with black monks of the *Benedictine* order, and the house dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. On the dissolution, the annual revenues were estimated at 47l. 15s. 3d. which in the sixth year of Queen Elizabeth were granted to Mr. John More.* The remains consist of the refectory, under which appears to have been cells, and over, the dormitory, with the conventual church: part of the latter is at present used for parochial service. To the reflecting mind, this spot, in the bosom of retirement, yet forcibly pointing to tales of other times, is peculiarly interesting, by the association of ideas it creates between past events and present manners—a spot that seems to place the soul between the living and the dead: the still secluded retreat, where contemplation may wean it from the trifles of earth; and devotion, on the wings of faith and hope, waft it to heaven. The church, the present mansion-house, and the ruinous refectory, are one connected building, forming three sides of a square court, open towards the east. The latter is in length twenty-seven yards, by ten broad, and appears to have had three stories or tiers of apartments. The walls are in places six feet thick, and on the southern side is a square-headed door-way: part of this is now converted into stabling. Though, as a structure, the *church* externally furnishes nothing striking, yet the interior will amply repay the traveller for a little time, spent in antiquarian research. The shape originally appears to have been cruciform, but the north transept is down. What forms the present building, evidently the chancel or choir, is twenty one yards in length, and nine in breadth; and in the eastern window are a few remains of painted glass. The nave

of churches and religious institution; among several others, to the church of Bangor two hundred and forty *pence*, and to this priory one hundred and twenty. Sums, however trifling they may sound now, yet at the period they were granted, amounted to a most valuable consideration.

* Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

nave, now disused, is probably a small part of the original body remaining, measuring sixteen yards long, by six broad. The square tower in the centre rests upon four circular arches, having treble zigzag and billetted mouldings, supported by small round columns, with plain plinths, and simple capitals. The south transept, sixteen feet square, has its sides ornamented with arcades, consisting of small circular-headed arches, with double zigzag mouldings, and supported by semicircular pilaster columns, with plain plinths and capitals.*

On the right of the altar is a mural monument, consisting of a black marble slab, surmounted by an urn of white Parian, bearing the following inscription,

"Sacred

To the memory of HUGH HUGHES, Esqr. of Lleiniog, and Mary his wife, who lie beneath.

He	died	Feb. 19th, 1774	aged	68
She		Nov. 1st. 1788		82"

In the south transept, within one of the arched recesses, is a monument erected to the memory of a father of the lady, married to Sir Richard Bulkeley. Above the slab is a canopy, under which is a shield, charged with a coat sable, a chevron ingrailed, between three human heads erased; and on one side a winged hour glass, on the other a death's head, with *memenți mori*. Beneath, on a square brass tablet this inscription—

"HERE LYETH THE BODY OF SIR THOMAS WILSFORD, OF ILDINGE, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, KNT. WHO DIED Y^e 25TH OF JANUARY, 1645.

* Here is a structure, that bears the stamp of very high antiquity, even so far back as the seventh century; and several of its parts exhibiting that style, which has generally been, though most probably erroneously, attributed to the *Saxons*. Architecture and arts declined at Rome, after the irruption of the Barbarians, and the buildings erected subsequent to that period by the Britons, whose knowledge of art was derived from thence, would consequently partake of the debased style. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that the ancient edifices, constructed of stone, and having circular arches, round columns, and certain distinctive capitals were the work of the Britons; especially when it is known, the early Saxon churches were, as Alfred and Bede express it, *Getembrie*, or made of wood.

1645. In the lower part of the present church is a benetier, now used as a baptismal font, instead of a very ancient and curious one, consisting of a solid block of stone with a circular concavity, hollowed out at top, and having a kind of rude plinth round the base. This is a specimen of the earliest fonts, probably coeval with the original monastic church. Near this place is a *Ffynon vair*, or holy-well, surrounded by a wall and stone seats, the water of which appears to possess no mineral property, but is extremely pure from any earthy particles. Formerly it was crowdedly frequented, being reputed efficacious in various eruptive diseases, and the laggering rear of superstition still considers it endued with salutary powers.

Three quarters of a mile distance from the shore, is the island of PRIESTHOLM, YNIS SEIRIOL, GLANNAUCH, or *Puffin Island*. It is of an oval shape, about a mile in length, and half in breadth, extremely lofty, and except on the side opposite the promontory of Penmon, bounded by precipices: and even that is a bold escarpment. The land to the edge of these cliffs, slopes gradually from the summit, and is covered with a fine turf. At present there are no inhabitants. Seiriol*, a saint in the sixth century here erected his cell, part of which has been erroneously stated, still to remain. Near the centre is an old

* Seiriol was the son of Owen Danwyn ap Einion ab Cunedda, a holy man, who lived in the beginning of the sixth century, and established a school at Penmon in Mona, afterwards called *Car Seiriol*. Owen's Cambrian Biography. Of this British saint various legendary stories are related. Tradition reports, that the two saints Seiriol and Cybi held weekly meetings at certain springs, which are known under the appellations of their respective names to the present day. They are near Clorach in the parish of Llandyfrydog, and the efficacy of their waters, in popular estimation, continues undiminished. What in the dark ages passed for a miracle, would now excite a smile. That, which ever way Seiriol travelled, the sun always followed him, and which-ever way Cybi travelled, the sun always met him: from the circumstance of the former proceeding *westward* in the morning, and *eastward* in the evening, and the latter the reverse. Hence arose the distinction,

"Seiriol wyn, a Chybi felyn."
Seiriol the fair, and Cybi the tawny.

old square tower, supposed to have been a portion of a religious house, a subordinate cell to the priory of Penmon. Round this are strewed a quantity of rubbish and stones, with the vestiges of other buildings; while the numerous human bones discoverable, are strong proofs of its once reputed sanctity, and the superstitious wish of the people, to obtain the privilege of interment in a place, devoted to pilgrimage and prayer. A tradition relates, that when the Lavan sands formed a habitable part of Caernarvonshire, the people had a communication between this place, and the opposite shore, by means of a bridge; and they yet pretend to shew the vestiges of an old causeway, made as it is said, from hence to Penmon bach, near Conway; for the convenience of devotees in their pious visits to the shrine of St. Seiriol. Of the religious recluses, who selected this for the place of their retirement, Giraldus relates the following remarkable story. "There is a small island almost adjoining to Anglesea, which is inhabited by hermits, living by manual labour, and serving God. It is remarkable that when by the influence of human passions, any discord arises among them, all their provisions are devoured and infected by a species of small *mice*, with which the island abounds; but when the discord ceases, they are no longer molested.—This island is called in Welsh Ynis Lenach, or priest's island, because many bodies of saints are deposited there, and no woman is suffered to enter it*." Some dissension and division, seems to have taken place between the brethren of Penmon, and the Glannauch establishment, for Dugdale gives a recital of grants made to this priory, by Prince Llewelyn, and his brother David; and the confirmation of the same, by king Edward the first; by which it appears, the priory of Penmon with its appurtenances was granted and confirmed to the prior, and canons of this island*. Prince Owen

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 106.

* "Inspeximus autem cartam quam Leivelinus Princeps de Aberfrau et Dominus Snowdon fecit Priori et Canonicis de Insula Glannauch in hæc verba. Noverit universitas vestra, nos pro salute animæ nostræ, et antecessorum

Owen Gwynedd, the founder of this monastery, and those of Penmon, Holyhead, and Bangor, the cotemporary of king Arthur, lies buried here; and from the reputed sanctity of the place, and the security afforded by the insulated situation, from the outrages of vindictive ferocity, numbers of the great chose this for the place of their interment: and, though no ornamental piles nor sepulchral trophies now remain, to enable the visitor of the cemetery to discriminate between royal and ignoble dust; yet the mind, awake to meditation, will be wafted back to days of other times, and sympathetically say as it views the dilapidated walls, and scattered fragments around,

" How many hearts have here grown cold,
That sleep these mouldering tombs among?
How many beads have here been told?
How many matins here been sung?
On this rude stone, by time long broke
Methinks I see some pilgrim kneel,
Methinks I see the censer smoke,
And faintly hear the solemn peal.
But here no more soft music floats,
No holy anthems chaunted now,
All's hush'd, except the sea fowl's notes,
Hoarse murmuring from yon craggy brow."

This once celebrated spot is now deserted by man, and only inhabited by a few sheep and a numerous colony of rabbits. During the summer months, the place swarms with various birds of passage, peregrine falcons, cormorants, razor-bills, guillemots, oyster-catchers, stormy peterels, divers, terns, curlews, gulls, &c. but the whole island in the season seems animated with the Alcæ Arcticæ, *puffin auks*, or coulternebs. These birds frequent various parts of the coast of Great Britain and Ireland, but no where in greater numbers than this, where their flocks, for multitude may be compared to swarms of bees.

rum nostrorum dedisse et concessisse, et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse Priori et Canonicis de insula Glannauc, totam Abbadaeth de Penmon cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, &c." Monasticon, Vol. II. p. 338.

" Eye, Muse, the crowded isle—its cliffs how gay,
While gazing strangers through its wonders stray,
They view with terror's eye the shelving steep,
And daring man looks down upon the deep:
The murmuring puffins to their shelter crowd
The living surface—and the feathered cloud;
The ambient waters and the general scream,
For novel nature seems to them a dream."

LLOYD.

When the feathered hosts are disturbed by the firing of a gun, or any alarming noise, they suddenly rise in such numbers as to put on the appearance of a dense cloud; at the same time filling the air with a loud and most dissonant mixture of harsh and disagreeable sounds. Indeed the notes of all sea birds are extremely inharmonious. " We have often rested under the rocks, attentive to the various sounds above our heads, which mixed with the solemn roar of the waves swelling into, and retiring from, the vast caverns beneath, have produced a fine effect. The sharp voice of the sea-gulls, the frequent chatter of the guillemots, the loud note of the auks, the scream of the herons, together with the hoarse, deep, periodical croak of the cormorants, which serves as a bass to the rest; has often furnished us with a concert, which, joined with the wild scenery that surrounded us, afforded, in a high degree, that species of pleasure, which arises from the novelty, and, we may say, gloomy grandeur of the entertainment."

" When we had arrived under the rock, observes Mr. Bingley, and had cast anchor, we fired a swivel gun, to try the effect of the report round the island, when such a scream of puffins, gulls, and other sea birds, was heard, as beyond all conception, astonished me. The immense multitudes that in a moment rose into the air, were unparalelled by any thing I had before seen. Here they flew in a thousand different directions, uttering as many harsh and discordant screams: some darted into the water, some scudded about on its surface, others were seen dipping into the deep, others rising out, and others again came flapping almost close to our heads: in short, the air, the sea,

sea, and the rocks seemed alive with their numbers, we landed, and I clambered up the rocks, and walked alone to the other side of the island, I had a sight that even surpassed the former. Upwards of fifty acres of land, were literally covered with puffins. I speak much within compass, when I declare that the number here must have been upwards of 50,000. I walked gently towards them, and found them either so tame or so stupid, as to suffer me to approach near enough to have knocked one or two of them down with a stick. In their habits and manners, these birds remind one very much of the Penguins of the tropical climates. Their legs are placed so far back, that they stand with their heads nearly upright. They are about a foot in length. Their bill forms a triangle, about an inch and quarter long, and somewhat more than that in depth at the base: it ends in a somewhat curved point, is of an orange red colour, but near the base it is lead-coloured, and the base itself is formed by a yellowish ridge. When the birds are three years old, or full grown, the bill has four oblique transverse furrows. The upper parts of the plumage, and a collar round the neck, are blackish. The cheeks and chin are of a greyish white, and the belly is perfectly white. The tail is short; the legs are orange. The wings are somewhat short, and so narrow, as to require a very brisk and rapid motion to keep the birds suspended. They have some difficulty in rising from the ground, in consequence of which they generally alight in such places where they can either run down the slope of a hill, or throw themselves from the rocks. In one or two instances, I laughed to see them tumble over, when running to take flight, by their bills catching in little eminences that they were not aware of.---Puffins are birds of passage, and resort to this island, and to some other parts of the Welsh coast to breed. They arrive in the beginning of April, and remain till about the eleventh of August. On their arrival they immediately take possession of the burrows in the crevices of the rocks, or on the sloping ground of the island; and those that come last, if they find all the holes occupied, form for themselves new ones.

It is said that the males take this employment, and that during the time, they are so intent on the work as easily to be seized with the hand. They have nearly expelled the rabbits, by seizing on their burrows, for few rabbits are able to resist the strength of their beaks. They put together usually a few sticks and grass, and on this the female lays a single white egg, which is generally hatched in the beginning of July, the males and females are said to sit alternately, relieving each other at intervals for the purpose of procuring food. Both during incubation, and while attending on their young, they may without much difficulty be seized in their holes; but it is necessary to be somewhat careful in trusting the naked hand near their beaks, for they have the power of inflicting a most severe bite. With a glove on I amused myself by taking out several of them, in order to observe the truth of Mr. Pennant's assertion, that from their extreme affection for their young, when "laid hold of by the wings, they will give themselves the most cruel bites on any part of their body that they can reach, as if actuated by despair; and when released, instead of flying away, they will often hurry again into their burrows." They bit me with great violence, but none of them seized any parts of their own body: a few of them, on being released, ran into the burrows, but not always into those from whence I had taken them, if it was more easy for them to escape into a hole, than to raise themselves into the air, they did so; but if not, they ran down the slope, and flew away. The noise they make, when along with their young, is a singular kind of humming, much resembling that produced by the large wheels, used for spinning worsted. When I first went amongst their burrows, I heard this noise on every side of me, and could not conceive from whence it proceeded, till the sound of my footsteps frightened many of the birds out of their holes, and it was immediately explained. On being seized, they emitted the noise with greater violence, and from its being interrupted, by their struggling to escape, it sounded not much unlike the efforts of a dumb man to speak. In getting the birds out of the holes, I

found it necessary to lay down on the ground, and extend my arm into them; and it was only in a few holes that I found the birds within reach. During incubation, they are not easily driven from their nests; but when the young are hatched, they do not seem to exhibit towards them, as has been said, any extreme attachment, for whenever they are disturbed, they will either run into a deeper hole, or attempt to fly away. When caught, they will seize on any thing that is near them. The man who was along with me, shot a few of them: one of these had only its wing broken, and when he had set it down in the small boat belonging to the cutter, it hurried to the other end, and bit with great violence several of the dead ones that were laid there.—The young are entirely covered with a long blackish down, and in shape are altogether so different from the parent birds, that no one could, at first sight, suppose them the same species. The bill in these is long, pointed, and black, with scarcely the marks of furrows. Puffins do not breed, till they are three years old; and they are said to change their bills annually. Their usual food is sprats and sea weeds, which render the flesh of the old birds excessively rank. The young, however, are pickled for sale by the renters of the island*, and form an article of traffic, peculiar to this neighbourhood. The oil is extracted from them by a peculiar process, and the bones are taken out, after which the skin is closed round the flesh, and they are immersed in vinegar impregnated with spices. Dr. Caius informs us, that in his days, the puffins were allowed by the church to be eaten in Lent, instead of fish; and says that they were usually caught by means of ferrets, as we now sometimes take rabbits. At present, they are either dug out of

* The island is the property of Lord Bulkeley, who lets it to a company of poor persons for fifteen pounds per annum. These make the rent, and a small profit by depasturing a few sheep, and taking rabbits and puffins. The latter are sold at one shilling per dozen to persons, who cure them by pickling, and when packed in small barrels, each containing twelve birds, are sold at four to five shillings per barrel. E.

dead, was much more confined than it has since happened to be; I, therefore, did not know but these fish might have been common in Britain, otherwise they had all been certainly preserved, to prevent future doubts about them."

The question seems to have received little elucidation from the altercation, having been left in more than a sea-weed maze, and the observant reader can only lament, for the cause of literature, that discussions of such a nature were not conducted with more moderation.

Penmon Park, originally belonging to the monastery, but now the property of lord Bulkeley, surrounded by a very lofty stone wall, is stocked with red deer, and highly prolific in rabbits. On the northern side is a high limestone ridge, affording a fine view of the Irish sea, and from it is visible, in clear weather, the Isle of Man. At a small distance to the south of the ridge, in the centre of the park, stands a very ancient curious British *cross*, consisting of an oblong square upright shaft, six feet in height, two sides of which are wider than the two others. These are ornamented with endless circumgyrations and interlacings in relievo, similar to the crosses near Llantwit Major in Glamorganshire. On one of the broad sides is a mutilated figure of some saint, and the remains of characters, which are illegible. The pedestal, an oblong quadrangular flat stone, is ornamented in the same manner with the shaft. The head of the cross lies down by the side, and was affixed to the shaft by means of a tenon and mortise. It is nearly of a lozenge shape, and has on each face, in relievo, a cross pattee. This precious morceau of antiquity, which has probably occupied this spot from the time the adjacent religious structure was built, the noble proprietor of the park has signified an intention of removing to his grounds at Baron-hill. What a subject of regret is it, such a false taste should be so prevalent, that induces persons of fortune and power to remove ancient monuments from the sites on which they were orignally placed: sites, connected with the circumstances attendant on their erection;

erection; and from which, in addition to their venerability, they derive much of their interest, as objects of investigation.

Near LLANDONNA* is a precipitous isolated hill, called *Bordd Arthur*, or Arthur's round table†, on which are the vestiges of the ancient fortification, denominated *Din*, or *Dinas Sylwy*, or the exploratory fort. It is encompassed by a deep fosse, between two lofty valla, formed of rude stones, and in the area are the foundations of oval buildings, the temporary habitations of the occupants of the fortress. This must have been almost an impregnable strong hold, for besides the artificial defence, the natural situation presents a formidable obstacle to an invading enemy; the hill sloping steeply on all sides, and the acclivity increasing as you approach the ramparts. It was well situated, as an advanced post, to watch the movements of the northern invaders, which anciently infested the island. In a deep gully, leading from Llanddona church to the sea, near the shore are two round mounts, which Mr. Pennant conjectured were the work of the Danes, cast up for the protection of their vessels, which, on their plundering excursions, came often into the Red-wharf bay. In the vicinity of Din Sylwy is what has been considered the British Tarpeian rock, denominated *Nant y dienydd*, the cliff or rather chasm of destruction; a name probably suggested by its very precipitous position.

Near this place is a church called LLANFIHANGEL DIN SYL-

* This Saint Dona, to whom the church is reputedly dedicated, was the son of Selyv ab Cynan Garwyn, who lived in the beginning of the eighth century. Owen's Camb. Biog.

† It will be gratifying to persons, not fond of antiquarian research, to ascend this eminence for the sake of the prospect, which consists, according to Mr. Pennant, of "an intermixture of sea, rock, and alps most savagely great." The Menai, seemingly encircled by the two shores, assumes the appearance of a magnificent lake, with the town of Beaumaris on its margin; while on the right, the eye is gratified by the unbroken undulations of Anglesea; on the left, by Snowden and his lofty associates; and the reverse of the sublime picture is filled up with the view of the ocean, terminated by the horizon.

WY;

wy; and about two miles further that of Llanjestyn*, celebrated for containing a tomb of curious workmanship, and generally supposed to be that of its tutelar saint; but, from the cut of the letters on the scroll, some antiquarians have conjectured it must have been done, long subsequent to the death of Jestyn: indeed, from the inscription itself, the work appears to have been a votive offering. On the tomb is the portraiture of a man, depicted with his head covered with a cowl, a beard subjected to the round tonsure, with whiskers on the upper and under lip. Round his cassock is a sash and cord†, over which is a long cloak, fastened by a broche: in one hand is a staff with the head of some beast on the top; and in the other a scroll bearing this inscription, formed of rude-shaped letters. "Hic jacet sanctus Yestinus cui Gwenllian filia Madoc et Gryffit ap Gwillyn optulit in oblacaem istam imaginem p. salute animarum." The inscription is thus given by Mr. Pennant, as copied by a late votary to antiquarian research, the Hon. Daines Barrington. With this, the autograph, engraved in the Mona Antiqua, nearly corresponds. Yet Mr. Owen‡, the editor of the second edition of that work, observes, in a note upon the passage, "This inscription is a mere fiction; neither the letters on the plate, nor the words here read, being to be found on the stone at Llaniestin; though it is plain by the words Gryffut ap Gwilym & animarum s. the same stone is meant. The tomb stone at Llaniestin is a curious piece of workmanship. It is the effigy of a man in a sacerdotal habit, whence we may con-

* This was a saint, who lived towards the close of the sixth century, the son of Geraint ab Erbin, a worthy knight of Arthur's Round Table, slain by the Saxons at the siege of London. This Geraint, grandson of Constantine, duke of Cornwall, was admiral of the British fleet, during the reign of Owen Gwynedd, king of North Wales; and occasionally harbouring in the island, is said to have built the church of Pentraeth, called, after its founder, *Llanfair Bettws Geraint*. Rowland's Mona Antiqua. p. 155.

† By these insignia the pious Gwenllian supposed Jestyn was a Franciscan, a piece of anachronism not unusual in early times.

‡ P. 155.

clude,

clude, that it is the tomb of some abbot. The true inscription is inserted under the false. On the edge of the stone, above the head of the effigy, in large letters, HIC JACET GRYFFUT AP GWILEM. Then on a circular label on your left hand of the head, AMMARUM S.—Then on a circular label on the other side—NEM: P: SANLUTE. On another label S C S - JE.IUM. And some broken letters on the crook." After an investigation of the matter, from the inscription being now less legible, the writer of this is reluctantly necessitated to say, "Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites." The curious painting of St. Catherine, to whom the church was dedicated, is now in a very mutilated condition.

Traeth coch, or Red wharf, at the distance of two miles, a large bay running into the land, where it receives the waters of the small river *Torryd*, is covered with firm sands passable at low water. Those on the western side, intermixed with a large portion of small shells, are highly serviceable as a manure, and are carried to all parts of the island, within a convenient distance, for agricultural purposes. The western horn of the bay forms a small cape, or promontory, called *Castell-in-awr*, flat at top, and joined to the land by a low isthmus. This and the adjacent cliffs are composed of calcareous strata, and numerous small vessels frequenting the coast for carrying limestone to different parts of Wales, enliven this otherwise dreary portion of the island. They lie in a small narrow channel, near the rocks, and a better accommodation lately made for taking on board their cargoes, is now denominated *New Quay*.

PENTRAETH, pleasantly situated, as its name imports, at the head of the sands, has its small church so surrounded by ash and sycamore trees, as apparently to be shut out from the observation of the world, and the highly picturesque appearance, contrasted with the dreary aspect of the sands, induced the late Mr. Grose to honour it with an engraving in his Antiquities of Great Britain. The *Pantons* have in this church their place of interment. About half a mile distant is PLAS GWYN, the seat

of *Paul Panton*, Esq. which came into possession of this family by the marriage of the late Paul Panton, father of the present possessor, with Jane, daughter of William Jones, Esq. of Pentraeth. The present mansion, though a good structure, cannot "be reckoned among the best of the island." It, however, contains in its well-selected library, an invaluable treasure of Welsh manuscripts and other valuable documents, relative to the affairs of Britain. And those who, like the editor, have experienced the communicative disposition of this family, and the liberal treatment shewn by them to the inquisitive traveller, will cordially subscribe to the warm, but just encomiums of Mr. Lloyd, "To the lovers of British literature, the name of *Panton* will always be dear; to this family they are particularly indebted; and the opportunity of acknowledging it will be always gratifying." In a field, near the porter's lodge, stand two upright stones, about fifty feet from each other, of which a story is handed down by tradition, that *Ernion ap Gwalchmai* *, centuries ago, obtained his wife, Angharad, by his uncommon agility, exhibited in leaping the distance between these two stones. Two competitors, nearly at the same time, started for the fair-one's hand, and their claims appearing nearly equal, she decided by their relative salient abilities. Affection so professedly bestowed, was not long likely to be stationary. Eineon, going to a distant part of the country, where he had occasion sometime to reside, on the morn of his return found his faithless Angharad married to another: upon which occasion he took up his harp, and accompanying it with Welsh metre, bitterly upbraided her for the dereliction. The two stones in question are probably the remains of a druidical triangular monument, another having been thrown down at a small distance.

Two miles from Plas Gwyn is PENMYNYDD.

* An eminent poet, who flourished from A. D. 1170 to 1220, some of whose productions are inserted in the Welsh Archaiology

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In the church is a very magnificent monument of white alabaster, removed at the dissolution of Llanfaes priory to this site; and from that having been the place of interment for the Tudors, it was probably erected in memory of one belonging to that distinguished family. It is an altar-tomb, on which are two recumbent figures, the one of a man in complete armour, with a conical helmet on his head; the other of a woman, dressed in the costume of the times, and her head covered with a cornered hood. Angels are represented as supporting both, and their feet rest upon couchant lions.

Penmynydd will ever be notable upon the historic tablets, as having been the residence of the *Tudyr*, or *Tudor* family, and the birth-place of the celebrated Owain ap Meredydd ab Tudyr, commonly called Owen Tudor. His grandfather *Tudor ap Gronw* was a favourite of Edward the Third, displayed great valour in his wars, and received from that monarch the order of knighthood. His fourth son Meredyth, however, was in a less exalted station, that of *Scutifer* to the bishop of Bangor. Having in a rencontre committed murder, he fled his country, and lived in exile; during which time his wife was delivered of *Owen*, the subject of this biographical sketch. He was born about the year 1385, and after a scholastic education he went to London, and studied the law; but not liking the profession he travelled abroad. After visiting several countries he returned to the metropolis, and got admission to the English court; but by what means he obtained that favour, does not appear; probably by military services, in those times the usual road to honours and preferments. Soon after the death of king Henry the Fifth, his widow Catherine of France was enamoured with Owen, and the dowager queen became a subject's wife. His introduction was rather singular. Being an active gentleman,* comely in person, and courtley in

* The family of Tudor were all portly men, but a knowledge of the world had given Owen a discriminating advantage. It was natural for the queen to

in his behaviour, he was once commanded to dance before the queen; but in footing it down he slipped, and, unable to recover himself, fell into her lap, as she sate on a stool with the maids of honour around her, admiring his agility. "Who beyng," as honest Halle informs us, "young and lustye, folowyng more her own appetyte than frendely consaills, and regardyng more her private affection then her open honour, toke to husband privily (in 1428) a goodly gentylman, and a beautiful person, garniged with manye godlye gyftes, both of nature and of grace, called Owen Teuther, a mâ brought furth and come of the noble lynage and ancient lyne of Cadwaladar, the last kynge of the Britonnes.*" They lived together till her death, which happened in the year 1437, after she had brought him three sons and one daughter. On the death of their mother, Edmund and Jasper were most respectably placed under the care of Catherine de la Pole, abbess of Berking, daughter of Michael de la Pole, earl of Suffolk†. Afterwards they were both ennobled by Henry the Sixth. Edmund was made earl of Richmond, and married the lady Margaret, only daughter of John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, by whom he had one son, Henry, earl of Richmond, afterwards king Henry the Seventh of England. Jasper was created earl of Pembroke; Owen took to a monastic life, and the daughter died in infancy‡. The suddenness of Catherine's second marriage

to be desirous of seeing the kindred of the man, on whom she had bestowed her person: and the sarcasms, which were thrown out at court respecting the meanness of her husband's family and connections, increased that desire. At her request Owen presented his cousins, John ap Meredydd and Howel ap Llewelyn, men of good stature and personage, but exceedingly uncouth in manners; and when the queen, highly accomplished, spoke to them in several languages, and they were unable to answer, she observed "they were the goodliest dumb creatures that ever she saw." York's Royal Tribes of Wales.

* Halle's Chronicle, 41.

† Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. x. 823.

‡ Owen had one illegitimate son, named Dafydd, who after the accession

riage after the king's death, and the very inferior rank of her husband, gave great umbrage to her royal relations, and brought her character into general contempt. Yet, during her life, the union had been connived at, notwithstanding an *ex-post-facto* law had been enacted, subsequent to its celebration; prohibiting any person, under severe penalties, from marrying a queen dowager of England, without a special licence having been first obtained from the reigning monarch;* and Mr. Tudor met with no annoyance from his constructive infraction of it. But on the queen's demise, the respect the English ministers had shewn the unequally yoked couple, out of regard to the memory of the late king, entirely ceased. Owen was seized, and committed to Newgate, from which prison he escaped, by the friendly assistance of his servant and confessor. Being retaken, he was placed under the custody of the earl of Suffolk, constable of the castle of Wallingford; and, after some time, was recommitted to Newgate, and Stow says, also to the Tower. How long his second confinement lasted is not stated; he however escaped, or was probably liberated by the intercession of his sons, whose influence was then great with king Henry; who about that time was disturbed by the open claim of the duke of York to the succession; and who, therefore, deemed it adviseable to strengthen his aristocratic interest by all possible means. This release of Owen, and the honours conferred on his sons, so flattered the Welsh, that they were ever afterward induced faithfully to adhere to the house of Lancaster. Little occurs concerning this extraordinary character after his liberation, till the year 1460, when he received, by royal grant, the parks and their agistment in the lordship of Denbigh, and the wodewardship of the same, as expressed in the patent, "in regard of his good services."

sion of Henry the Seventh, received the honour of knighthood from that monarch; who also bestowed on him in marriage, the daughter and heiress of John Bohun, of Midhurst in Sussex, an accomplished lady, with a very ample inheritance. Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. 187.

* Drake's Parliamentary History, Vol. II. 211.

In

In the following year, during the unhappy distractions, occasioned by the contentions of the two houses of York and Lancaster, he appears again valiantly fighting for the red rose, under the banners of his son Jasper, at the bloody battle fought near *Mortimer's cross*, in the county of Hereford. The earls, who led the army against the victorious duke of York, escaped, leaving three thousand of their men dead on the field of battle. But Sir Owen Tudor, with several other knights and gentlemen were taken and instantly beheaded, conformable with the barbarous custom, practised by both parties in that sanguinary contest.* The body of Sir Owen was carried to Hereford, and interred there, according to Leland, in the church of the Grey Friars.

Penrhos Lygwy is notable, as the birth-place of the celebrated British antiquary, and eminent poet, Lewis Morris. This extraordinary genius, like many others that Providence chuses to endow with peculiar powers, and to bestow on them distriminating marks of dignity, which heraldry, with all its arts of emblazonry, cannot more ennoble, was born in the year 1702. His parents appear to have ranked in that portion of society, known better by habits of industry, than exhibitions of wealth. In a letter addressed to the late Mr. Samuel Pegge, the subject of this biographical sketch, observes, "what little stock of knowledge I have attained to, was in a manner by dint of nature; my education, as to language, was not regular, and my masters were chiefly sycamore and ash trees, or at best a kind of wooden masters. What progress I made that way is much impaired, for want of practice and corresponding with men of letters. The English tongue is as much a foreign language to me as the French." His first introduction into life was an appointment in the customs, which he relinquished for a more lucrative one, as a collector of the salt duties. While in this situation, he was employed by the board of Admiralty to make an hydrographical survey of the

* See Halle's and Holinshead's Chronicles.

sea-coast

sea-coast of Wales, the first part of which admirable work was published in the year 1748. Subsequent to this time so ably had he acquitted himself in the execution of the difficult task, that he was engaged by the Treasury Board in several important trusts, viz. surveyor of the crown lands, collector of the customs at Aberdovey, or Aberdyvi, and superintendant of the royal mines in Wales. During these bustling occupations, he contrived, by a prudent management of his affairs, to find time for study and writing. Much of this he devoted to music and poetry, which, as he derived no profit from its occupation, he described as being "robbed of". The latter part of his life appears to have been exercised in antiquarian researches, the fruits of which comprise common place collections from numerous rare and valuable manuscripts, elucidated by notes, together with additions to Dr. Davies's British Latin dictionary on the plan of Marsni. These he entitled "*Celtic Remains*, or the ancient Celtic Empire, described in the English tongue; being a biographical, critical, historical, etymological, chronological, and geographical, collection of Celtic materials, towards a British history in ancient times, in two parts." Though government had found him one of its most useful and faithful servants, yet from that corruption, which dislikes honesty, and is silently upbraided by the exertions of integrity; he fell into disfavour, and was removed from his most advantageous employments. In the same letter he says, "I am now in no public business, except superintendant of the king's mines, without a salary; and that falling out with some of our leading men, I have retired into a little villa of my own, where my garden, orchard, and farm, and some small mine-works, take a good part of my time, and a knowledge in physic and surgery, which brings me the visits of the poor; botany having been my favourite study, is now of use to *them*." His knowledge was almost universal. Natural history, mathematics, and mechanics, formed part of his elaborate studies; and his library, as well as being a receptacle of books, formed

was a depository for antiquities, faithful, and candid. His mind was open and candid, and his disposition as liberal as his learning was extensive. In his breast indigent genius ever found a cordial friend, and while the names of *Goronwy Owen* and *Evan Evans*, not to mention others, remain upon the records of literary fame, the mental dignity and beneficence of heart, displayed by Lewis Morris, will be handed down with admiration to posterity. The motto upon his tomb should have been:

"Fyth weled ei fath eilwaith."

We ne'er shall see his like again.

He died at his residence of Penbryn in Cardiganshire, April 11, 1765, and left behind him about eighty volumes of manuscripts, written in Welsh, which are now deposited in the library, belonging to the Welsh charity school, situated in Gray's-inn-lane, London. He corresponded with some of the first antiquaries and critics of his time, and several of his epistles are published in the second volume of the Cambrian register. His poetical compositions were printed in the collection entitled, "Diddanioch Teulaidd."

Llangefni, a village situated in a beatiful vale, in the mail road to Holyhead, distant eight miles from Porthaethwy ferry, and eleven from Beaumaris, is one among many instances of the improving state of the island. A few years since this spot could only boast of one house, near the bridge over the river Cefni. It is now a decent well-built small town, having, besides the church, two meeting-houses for protestant dissenters, two good inns for the accommodation of travellers, shops of every description, and its weekly market is the best supplied and best attended of any in Anglesea. By the returns made to parliament, in 1801, the number of houses amounted to 97, and of inhabitants to 539. Since that time the place has increased in population. In this parish is *Tre-garnedd*, now only a farm-house, but once the noble residence of a most valiant

and

and distinguished chieftain, EDNYFED FYCHAN, of *Ednyved Fychan*, the able counsellor and minister of Llewelyn the great, in the thirteenth century. He was successful against a powerful English army, which invaded the frontier; and having slain with his own hand three of the principal leaders, according to the savage practice of the times, he brought their heads as a present to his royal master. The prince, as an honorary reward for his eminent services on that occasion, commanded that his arms, which previous to that event had been a Saracen's head erased, proper, wreathed, or, should be changed; and that, in future, he should bear gules, a chevron ermine between three Englishmen's heads couped. From this personage was descended, in a direct line, the famous Sir Owen Tudor, mentioned in the preceding pages, the ancestor of kings, Henry the Seventh and Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and every heir to the British throne since that period: besides in the collateral branches of heroes, not less distinguished in their respective stations. At this place was born the ill-fated SIR GRYFFYDD LLWYD, grandson of the above chieftain; he had been one of those, who had assented to acknowledge, as potentate, any person nominated by Edward the First, providing he were a native of Wales; and was the first who brought the intelligence to that monarch of his queen Eleanor having been delivered of a son in Caernarvon castle; who proved their future destined sovereign. On this occasion he received the honour of knighthood, and subsequently did homage for his estates to the young prince at Chester. But the yoke of submission did not sit easy; for afterwards, indignant at some offence offered him, and feeling resentment for the wrongs and oppressions of his duped and suffering countrymen, he meditated a revolt; and for that purpose, between the years 1316 and 1318, attempted, but without effect, to form an alliance with Edward Bruce, then king of Ireland. Though disappointed in the wished-for assistance, his lofty spirit would brook no controul. He had formed the plan of liberating his country from the slavery to

which, by his signature, he unintentionally had confirmed, and was determined to put it in execution." In the year 1400 he took up arms, and aided by the diversions, occasioned by two other insurrections under Madoc, and Owen Glyndwr, for some time over-ran the country with resistless impetuosity: but suffering a defeat by the English troops, he retreated into Anglesea to his house at Tregarnedd; which he had strongly fortified with a foss and ramparts; and garrisoned with his followers another strong hold, called *Ynys Cefni*, situated about three quarters of a mile distant, in a morassy part of the Malltraeth marsh*; a spot that he contrived to insulate by bringing round it the waters of the river Cefni †. Here, however, after a desperate struggle he was taken prisoner, for some time confined in Rhyddlan castle, and at length executed.‡

Tregarnedd derives its appellation from an immense *Carnedd*, or piled heap of stones, surrounded by a circle of upright ones in an adjacent field. Beneath are numerous hollow passages, formed by flat flag stones, laid upon others placed edgewise. These Mr. Pennant supposes were intended as repositories for the dead. "Not that bones, or urns are always discovered in them; for the founders, like those of the pyramids in Egypt, appear often to be disappointed in their hopes of having their reliques lodged in these labored mausoleums."§

Tregaian is noticed as the birth-place and residence of William ap Howel ap Jorwerth, called the Welsh patriarch, who lived about the latter end of the sixteenth century, and died at the unusually advanced age of *one hundred and five*. This person was no less remarkable for his numerous issue, than his

* Powell's Hist. of Wales, 383.

† The foss remains nearly perfect, and is about eight yards wide and four deep.

‡ Manuscript account of Anglesea, by the late Rev. Mr. Rowlands. This gentleman, the author of the Mona Antiqua, had begun a history of the island in Latin, but only lived to complete one cantref.

§ Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 53.

his longevity. He had successively three wives; the first of which brought him twenty-two children; the second ten; and the third four; and two concubines bore him seven; in the whole, forty-three. From this stock descended, during the life time of the sire, no less than three hundred people, eighty of whom lived in this neighbourhood. What is further a singular fact, in the year 1581, when his youngest son was only two years and a half old, his eldest was eighty-four; so that from the birth of the first to the last child, an interval elapsed of nearly *eighty-two years*. Between Tregaian and Llanerchymedd is *Maes Rhos Rhyfel*, where a most decisive battle was fought between the forces of Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, and an invading army composed of Erse, Manks, and Normans. An event which, though not mentioned by Warrington in his detail of the Welsh affairs, during the reign of this magnanimous prince, who was justly entitled to the distinguishing appellation of his ancestor, "*insularum draco;*" redounded more to the glory of Cambrian prowess, than any thing which had occurred for two preceding centuries. Owen succeeded his father in the sovereignty of North Wales in the year 1137, and during a long reign of thirty-two years successfully laboured to effect an union among the Welsh chieftains, with the view of inciting them to resist the incessant endeavours of the English government to subjugate their country. In repulsing the various attempts made by Henry the Second for the purpose, he acquired considerable glory; and in none more than on this occasion, for here both the naval and military power of the principality were engaged. To this transaction the poet Gray beautifully alludes in the following fragment:—

"Owen's praise demands my song,
Owen swift, and Owen strong;
Fairest flower of Roderic's stem,
Gwyneth's shield and Britain's gem.
He nor heaps his brooded stores,
Nor on all profusely pours;

Lhed of every regal art,
Liberal hand, and open heart.
Big with hosts of mighty name,
Squadrons three against him came
This the force of Eirin hiding;
Side by side as proudly riding,
On her shadow long and gay
Lochlin plows the wat'ry way;
There the Norman sails afar
Catch the winds, and join the war
Black and huge along they sweep
Burthens of the angry deep.
Dauntless on his native sands
The dragon-son of Mona stands;
In glittering arms and glory drest,
High he rears his ruby crest.
There the thund'ring strokes begin,
There the press, and there the din;
Talymalfra's rocky shore
Echoing to the battle's roar.
Where his glowing eye-balls turn,
Thousand banners round him burn;
Where he points his purple spear,
Hasty, hasty rout is there;
Marking with indignant eye
Fear to stop, and shame to fly.
There confusion, terror's child;
Conflict fierce, and ruin wild:
Agony that pants for breath;
Despair, and honourable death."

To the east of this common, called from the engagement *Maes y Rhos Rhyfel*, is *Castell*, where Roman coins of several emperors have been found, but no vestiges discovered of any station. Indeed the Romans appear not to have been in possession of the island a sufficient length of time, to have erected any permanent establishments.

The coast between Traeth Coch, and Moelfra point produces several kinds of excellent marble, equal to what is brought from foreign

foreign countries. These consist of black, grey, and mottled brown. The first kind, when taken out of the quarry is of a pale slate colour; if exposed long to the atmosphere, turns to a dingy white; but when polished is of a fine jet colour, and exhibits a very brilliant face. The third, recently discovered, is richly variegated with different shades of brown; takes a high polish, and from the endless diversity of the shades, displays an unique appearance. These marbles are manufactured into sepulchral monuments, and various ornaments for architectural decoration. Though out of these marble rocks, no urn has yet been found to perpetuate the memory of one

Who in the playful days of youth
Oft careless strayed amidst these wilds,

yet the lover of intellect, and the admirer of genius will be induced to visit LLANFAIR MATHAFERN EITHAF, to venerate the place, which gave birth to as brilliant a star, as for centuries appeared in the Cambrian hemisphere. GORONW OWEN, a man inferior probably in talents to none, that Wales has ever produced, was born in humble life in the year 1722. His father was a husbandman, who, like many of the Welsh peasantry, rented a little land, which he cultivated for the supply of his family; and having but scanty means, and unacquainted with the value of learning, was totally unmindful of bestowing any education on his children. Goranw, however, was endued with a mind, that must be informed, a spirit of inquiry no power could resist, and an ardour of research which defied all obstacles to extinguish. He went to school at first by stealth, through the influence of his mother continued there; and at an early period exhibited such uncommon abilities, and evinced so close an application to books, that at the age of fifteen he became qualified for an assistant in a grammar-school at Pwlheli. From thence, by the munificence of Mr. Lewis Morris, he removed to Oxford, and received an university education. After gradu-

ating there, he took holy orders, and was appointed by the bishop of Bangor his curate of Llanfair. Exalted to the priesthood, his wishes gratified, by the opportunity afforded him for literary pursuits, and stationed at his native place, happiness might be supposed the portion of Goronw. But no! the cup was dashed from his lip; the bishop, to make way for one of his particular friends, removed him, and he was glad to obtain the curacy of Oswestry, in Shropshire; where marrying, and having two children, the paltry pittance of a curate's stipend, illadequate to the maintenance of a family, rendered his situation distressingly hard. It was still more so on his removal to Donnington, where he assisted in a school, and served an adjacent church for twenty-six pounds per annum. Devoting his talents and strength in this state of genteel wretchedness, he subsisted for five years; when he rather ameliorated his condition by accepting the curacy of Walton, in Cheshire. But an annual forty pounds in a country, where provisions were high, was a sum by no means commensurate with the wants of his family; and they were reduced to the greatest penury. This necessitous state induced him to remove to London, in quest of something, that might better his prospects. An application on his behalf to Lord Powys, by his friend Lewis Morris, proving unsuccessful, he was compelled to take the curacy of North-holt in Middlesex. Unable to gain a comfortable livelihood, in 1757, he presented an address to the Cymmrodorion Society, petitioning for some small assistance towards defraying the expence of a passage to the Transatlantic continent, where he had resolved to go, after having been worn out with the unavailing expectations of obtaining some small preferment in his native country. "Thus, as Mr. Owen sympathetically observes, was the fairest flower of British genius transplanted, to wither in the ungenial climes of America." He settled at Williamsburg in Virginia, was appointed minister of the church, and there probably died. The last that was heard of him was in the year 1767, when he sent over an elegy, which he had composed on hearing of his friend

friend and patron's death. The abilities of Goronw were great, and his acquirements extensive. To a perfect acquaintance with the Latin and Greek, he added a knowledge of the Oriental languages; he was also a good antiquarian, and a favourite child of Apollo. His Latin odes have been very generally admired for the purity of the language, and elegance of expression. But as a *Welsh* poet, he ranks superior to all since the time in which flourished *Dafydd ap Gwilym*; and his compositions that have been published are considered as perfect models of Cambrian poetry. These consist chiefly of moral and religious odes; and his best performances are "*Cywydd y Gem*," or a Search after Happiness: and "*Cywydd y Farn fawr*," or The Day of Judgment. The ideas in the latter are so sublime, and the poetic images so crowded and striking, as deservedly to class it with the productions of the most distinguished bards. Mr. Morris, in a letter to Mr. Vaughan of Nannau, says, "I have two or three of his poems, the best that ever were written in our language, and such as will endure so long as there is good sense, and good nature, and good learning in the world." His poetical works, with some prose treatises, were printed in a volume, now become very scarce, entitled, "Diddanwch Teuluaidd."

In the church-yard is a modern carnedd composed of a rude heap of stones, five feet in height, twelve wide, and eighteen long. In the centre is the stump of an old tree; and near the south-end an immensely large yew-tree, nodding its own departure over the dead. Beneath the heap is a hollow cavern, the entrance guarded, according to the ancient Jewish, and British customs, by a large stone. This whimsical sepulchre was erected by a Mr. Wynne, and has long been the place of interment for the family.

Llanfihangel Tre'r Bardd received its distinctive appellation from having been anciently a Bardic settlement, or station of the Druids. On Bodafon hill is "the shapely *cromlech*," mentioned by Rowlands, as thrown down, and lying on its three

three supporters in the lands of *Bloohy*."* The table-stone measures ten feet in length, by eight in breadth. Its common name among the natives is, *y maen Llwyd*. Not far distant, at a place called Barras, is a smaller one in ruins. Between these is another demolished cromlech, named *Carreg y Frân*; which was evidently a double one,† the two flat incumbent stones, with several massy supporters, lying prostrate in a disorderly manner one upon another. The larger table-stone measures nine feet each way, and the lesser six.

LLANERCHYMEDD

is a considerable town, noted formerly for having the largest and most numerously attended market in Anglesea; but this within a few years past has been considerably diminished by the opening of one at Llangefni: which being a centrical situation, affords a more convenient spot for commercial transactions to the several parts of the island. The place enjoys no manufacturing trade, and the inhabitants are principally supported by the money, circulated among persons, who frequent the market, and the workmen at Paris mountain mines.

In this parish are the extensive woods of Llygwy, the property of lord Boston, a singular sight for Anglesea. Amid these, not far distant from the road, is a very large *cromlech*. The table stone of a rhomboidal shape, is very large, the longest diagonal measuring seventeen feet and a half, the lesser fifteen, and nearly four feet thick. It is incumbent on several supporting stones, at the height of two feet above the surface of

* Mona Antiqua, p. 93.

† This, when standing, was very similar to the large double cromlech in the grounds at Plas Newydd, in the parish of Llanidan; where a large and small one stand contiguous to each other.

of the ground. From the prevalent custom of ascribing every thing stupendous to the age, when the ceremony of the round table was instituted, the Welsh call this monument *Arthur's quoit*. In these woods are also several Druidical circles, nearly contiguous to each other, comprising numerous upright stones.

LLAWELIAN*. The church of this parish is by no means an inelegant structure, and what is almost unique for the island it has a *steeple*, consisting of a tower, surmounted by a spire†; so that it makes a considerable figure among the ecclesiastical buildings of this part of Wales. Adjoining is a small chapel, apparently more ancient than the church, measuring in the interior fifteen feet, by twelve. This denominated, *y Mynyr*, or the place of meditation, was probably the residence of the devout Elian. Inclosed within the walls of this building were two polygonal closets. One still remaining in the east wall, is called St. Elian's closet; and contains *Cyff Elian*, or St. Elian's chest. An aperture in the wall is supposed to have been used by the priests for receiving confessions, and returning oracular answers to persons, who came to make inquiries, relative to their future destinies. Such is the contaminating nature of error, and so powerful its sway, in the shape of superstition, that the Horatian maxim seems emphatically applicable to the mental economy of man.

> "Quo semel imbuta recens, servabit odorem
> Testa diu."

The saint had a widely extended popularity, and an immense concourse of devotees daily implored his assistance, to relieve them from their several infirmities. To obtain his salutiferous

* *Elian Geimiad*, or *Gamaid*, was a saint, who lived about the close of the fifth century.

† Most of the churches in Anglesea, are destitute of this highly ornamental appendage; having simply at the west end, a small elevation, with an arched aperture, for the purpose of hanging one bell.

tiferous favour, they made various oblations, which were deposited in the chest. These continued to be offered long subsequent to the death of Elian; and in process of time, formed an accumulated fund, sufficient to purchase an estate, that served as a considerable augmentation to the revenues of the living. "People out of health, even to this day, send their offering to the saint, which they put through a hole into the box. A silver groat, though not a very common coin, is said to be a present peculiarly acceptable: and has been known to procure his intercession, when all other kinds have failed! The sum thus deposited, which in the course of the year frequently amounts to several pounds, the churchwardens annually divide among the poor of the parish*." *Wakes*, or the commemorative anniversaries of the patron saints, to whom the churches are reputedly dedicated, are celebrated through Wales with divers festivities, and form the principal amusements of the people. Those of Llanelian used formerly to continue for three weeks, professedly being held on the first three Fridays in the month of August; but are now confined to one, and the two or three succeeding days. They are crowdedly attended by people from the adjacent country, and by many from distant parts of North Wales; most of whom bring some offering, as a palliative douceur for past offences, to deprecate impending evils, or to insure prosperity. Having deposited their gifts, some of these misguided devotees proceed to enquire as to their future good or ill fortune, in a singular and most ridiculous manner, by means of the wooden closet. Having entered by the small doorway, if they can succeed in turning round within the narrow limits of the place, about four feet high, four feet across the back part, and eighteen inches wide; they fondly fancy prosperity will attend them till the ensuing anniversary: but if they fail to accomplish this, which under certain circumstances is impossible, it is esteemed an omen either of disaster or death within

* Bingley's Tour in North Wales, Vol. I. p. 321.

within the year! Near this place was a *Llys*, or palace of the hero, recorded, in the Triades, with Rhiwallon, son of Urien and Belyn, Caswallon, who granted the following Charter.* "Good people hearken unto me, Kyswallon Law hir ap Einion Urdd, praying blessed Hillarie to have sight unto me, and to my men of my household; they, as then prayed especially and devoutly, when I and my household men lost our sight; I was Lord upon the wrong to you; when I took your oxen and your milch cows; then I was in the wrong to myself; therefore I will give you for such oxen, ten oxen; then said Hyllarie, if I had mine own goods, I would desire no man's goods; then said Kyswallon, ye shall have whatsoever ye will, and name it; and so did Kyswallon lift up his hand to uphold his promise, then Hyllarie made his prayer saying "I beseech my Lord God for his infinite goodness, restore unto you your sight. Kyswallon had his sight as perfectly as ever he had before, and all his household men, and then Hyllarie asked his gift, not there, but as much lands and grounds as his hart winneth, in running upon all your greyhounds, and let them slip from this same footing, that is to say Dulas, his hill; from thence into the mountain of Yngen; from thence to Gorsedd Reigit. and through the Nanney's Isle; to the hill of Trysclwn, and through Bod Bod nerrey; thence to the Harts Leap,; called in Welsh Llam y Carw; and thence he swam the sea to his Lord Hillarie, to Perth ychen, to land, and then Kyswallon gave the landmen woodlands, waters and fields, within those means and bounds above named to Hyllarie, in whatsoever freedom, Liberty or Franchises he would, and then Hyllarie assigned Kadawr, and Frydall, to devise and choose their Franchises because

* The subjects of this prince were so distinguished, on account of binding themselves together with the fetters of their horses, to sustain the attack of *Serigi*, an Irish chieftain, whom Caswallon slew with his own hands, when he drove the Irish from Anglesea.

Owen's Camb. Biog.

cause the land was theirs. And Kadawe Frydal choose to pay a penny to the chief lord, by way of attornement or seisine to keep the liberties and Franchises. And when, whosoever of this blood shall happen to dye, the heir shall goe to the court of the chiefe, and there pay a penny in the name of seisine or attornement, to suffer him to be free to God, and Hyllarie without bondage or thraldom upon him, free to him, and free to him to sell his lands to whomsoever him list or will, and he that buyeth the land to pay 12s. in fine, in two parts, 6s. to the chief Lord, and 6s. to Hyllarie, and a penny by way of seisine or attornement to the Lord's court, shewing him to be a free-man to God, and to Hyllarie. And he shall not swear within ten miles, but in his own commot, and his Lord's Leat, and not to swear there but for debt, and if he be cast 3d. of amercement to the Lord, and if he be not cast, to have 11d. of the court for amends, and free to him, to buy and to sell all manner of goods without impeachment, and the land and sanctuarie both to people and to cattle from the Lord's officers, and Hyllarie shall keep them from evil spirits. And Kyswallon taxeth upon them that break this franchise or graunt, or that disturbeth, troubleth, or offendeth any part thereof, or meddleth contrary to the said graunt upon Hyllaris lands, or his men, or any other taking the sanctuary, a fine of 40s. as often as he or they do offend against these said liberties. And if a man of Hyllaries be hurt or maimed, the same fine or amends, that is to say, the third part to Hyllarie, and to the Lord, and two parts to him that is so hurt or maimed. And whatsoever death take any of Hyllaries men; that the Lord have nothing to do with his goods, wife, nor no men, but only his kinsfolk have thereto authority, and if he be outlawed that these be not upon him, but 12d. of fine to be divided in two parts, (6d.) to the chief lord, and 6d. to Hyllarie, because he is is Hyllarie's man, and this liberty, and other Franchises I Kyswallon Lawhir do give to God, and Hyllarie, and my blessing with all, and my curse to him that it breaketh, and also I set Caldowr, and his issue

after to rede the Lord's part, because the land is not free to say men, and he himself not amerced. And if a man of Hyllarie be slayne, then is not to him, that slay him to be hanged, but if both parties be amerced, and Hyllarie gave his curse to gentels (gentlemen) that ridde upon his land with his foot in the stirrup, (stye-rope) (original) and that they slew a pig upon his land, and Kyswallon asked of Hyllarie, whether he would grant his men to come with him to the east, and he granted if Cadwr would so, that no compelling be upon them further than the means of their lands, but if they will of themselves; for why, he is an evil man that will not go in his Lord's need, God yield that sayd Kyswallon, I shall have horse and armour for him, for him that will, and armour for footmen that will have them upon my cost, and reward for his labour as much as he must. Then said Eingan the lord's brother, the libertie and franchises of Hyllaries men, is better than your men. That is no marvel said the Lord, for I give it my need, and not in his."

This is an old translation of the exemplification of the ancient charter, included in the letters patent, issued to the high chamberlain of North Wales, in the time of Edward the Fourth, on the petition of "Nicholas ab Elis, rector of the church, Sir Gwilym Gryffydd, Verec ap Meredydd ap Llewelyn Vychan, Tudur ap Llewelyn ap Hoell, Tudur ap Trehearn, Dafydd ap Eeigan ap Dafydd Gol: Eeineon ap Hoell ap Tudur, Dafydd ap Jorwerth, ap Dafydd, ap Gronow, ap Dafydd Gol, and several other free tenants holding of St. Elian. The confirming record, thus concludes. "Quam quidem schedulam, nos ex mera devotione et specialiter ob honorem Dei, ac illius Sancti Hillarii tenore presenti sub sigillo nostro Principatus North-Walliæ duximus exemplificandum. In cujus rei testimonium, has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentees, teste me ipso apud Caernarvon duodecimo die Decembris anno regni nostro quinto."

"Edwardus."

Cuswallon

Caswallon Law-hir, or Caswallon the long-handed, granted these and several privileges and immunities to this church, among others that of *Nawddfa* or sanctuary, it having been for centuries a place of refuge for criminals. This was one of the seven churches in Anglesea, which were entitled to hold several of their estates, *in capite, of the patron saint*; and one of the conditions of the tenure was, the preservation of these fugitive asyla*. The exemplification above quoted, is part of a copy of a charter of lands, franchises and immunities, granted by Caswallon to St. Elian, and his successors: which has been confirmed to the tenants or free-holders of those lands, by some of the kings of England

The high table land of *Trysclwyn* will attract the traveller's notice from a part of it, forming the farfamed *Parys mountain*†. The aspect of the hill, rising into enormous rugged rocks of coarse aluminous shale, and whitish quartz, naturally assumes a very rude appearance; and the mineral operations have considerably added to the rugged grandeur of its exterior. Vegetation in the adjacent parts is entirely destroyed by the suffocating fumes, issuing from the burning heaps of copper, which extend their exterminating influence for miles around. Even the mosses and lichens have disappeared, and nothing in the vegetable kingdom is seen to withstand the baneful effluvia, but the *Melica cærulea*, purple Melic Grass, which here flourishes in abundance.

" No grassy mantle hides these sable hills;
No flow'ry chaplet crowns the trickling rills;

Nor

* The others were the churches said to be dedicated to St. Beuno, St. Cybi, St. Cadwalader, St. Peirio, St. Mechell, and St. Cyngar. Rowland's Mona Antiqua. p. 133.

† Probably from a Robert Parys, chamberlain of North Wales, in the reign of Henry the Fourth.

"Nor tufted moss nor leathe'y Lichen creeps
In russet tapestry o'er the crumbling steep."

DARWIN.

There can exist no doubt, but that copper was obtained from this mountain, at a very distant period. As the early Britons are said to have imported all articles, constructed of brass, the copper mine at this place was probably worked by the Romans. Their method of mining, as described by Pliny, where plenty of ore was found, consisted in forming deep trenches, through which they pursued the mineral veins. The use of gunpowder not having then been known, the rocks were intensely heated by large fires, and cracks, or fissures, formed in them by the sudden suffusion of water or vinegar. The wedge and pick-axe, the ancient *fractaria*, were then introduced into the apertures, and the stone and ore forced out. Vestiges of such operations appear in several parts of the hill, and a round cake of copper was found at Llanfaethlu, also a few miles distance, which weighed fifty pounds, stamped with a mark resembling, an L. In the year 1762, Alexander Frazier, who travelled over the kingdom in quest of Mines, visited Sir Nicholas Bayley; and gave him so flattering an account of his property at Paris mountain, respecting its mineral treasure, as induced him to sink shafts, and seek for ore: but the work was soon impeded by an inundation of water. Two years after a company from Macclesfield, were obliged by the conditions of a lease, they obtained of Penrhyn du mine, in Caernarvonshire, to carry on a drainage level, and make a fair trial of this concern. Ore was discovered, but the profits were more than counterbalanced by the expences, and an order was sent by the lessees to their agent, to cease from any further pursuit. Unwilling, however, to forego the prospect he had of eventually succeeding, as a final attempt, he divided his men into several companies, each consisting of three or four persons. These sunk shafts in different places, about eight hundred yards to the eastward of a place, called the Golden venture. This spot was selected from a presumption, that a spring strongly

impregnated with copper, must issue from a body of that mineral. The conjecture was well-founded. Within a few days, at the depth of about seven feet only from the surface, they met with a solid vein of ore, which proved to be part of the immense mass, that has been ever since so advantageously worked*. Shortly after this discovery, another adventure was commenced by the Rev. Edward Hughes, who owned part of the mountainous ridge, in right of his wife Mary Lewis of Llys Dulas. This has proved equally successful. The bed of ore, is in some places more than sixty feet in thickness, and the proprietors, at one period, are said to have annually shipped twenty thousand tons. Thus by the perseverance of the possessors, a plat of ground, originally scarce of any value, has been converted into one of the most profitable estates in the kingdom. The ore has been supposed lately to be fast decreasing, but the discovery of a new vein in the Mona mine will tend to keep that portion of the property for years to come, in a prosperous state.

"Having," says Mr. Bingley," ascended to the top, I found myself standing on the verge of a vast and tremendous chasm. I stepped on one of the stages, suspended over the edge of the steep, and the prospect was dreadful. The number of caverns at different heights along the sides; the broken and irregular masses of rock, which every where presented themselves; the multitudes of men at work in different parts, and apparently in the most perilous situations; the motions of the whimsies, and the raising and lowering of the buckets, to draw out the ore and the rubbish; the noise of picking the ore from the rock, and of hammering the wadding, when it was about to be blasted; with, at intervals, the roar of the blasts in distant parts, of the mine, altogether excited the most sublime ideas, intermixed, however, with sensations of terror. I left this situation, and followed the road that leads into the mine; and the moment I entered,

* The anniversary of the day, March 2d 1768, has ever since been kept as a festival by the miners.

entered, my astonishment was again excited. The shagged arches, and overhanging rocks, which seemed to threaten annihilation to any one daring enough to approach them, fixed me almost motionless to the spot. The roofs of the work, having in many places fallen in, have left some of the rudest scenes that imagination can paint: these, with the sulphureous fumes, from the kilns in which the ore is roasted, rendered it to me a perfect counterpart to Virgil's entrance into Tartarus.

> 'Tis here in different paths the way divides,
> The right to Pluto's golden palace guides;
> The left to that unhappy region tends,
> Which to the depth of Tartarus descends:
> The seat of night profound, and punish'd friends.

To look up from hence, and observe, the people on the stages, a hundred and fifty feet above one's head; to see the immense number of ropes and buckets, most of them in motion; and to reflect, that a single stone casually thrown from above, or falling from a bucket, might in a moment destroy a fellow-creature, a man must have a strong mind, not to feel impressed with many unpleasant sensations. A few days before I was last here, a bucket caught against the point of a rock, emptied its contents on the head of a poor fellow, and killed him on the spot. The sides of this dreadful hollow are mostly perpendicular. Along the edges, and in general slung by ropes over the precipices, are the stages with windlasses, or whimsies, as they are here termed, from which the buckets are lowered; and from which those men descend, who work upon the sides. Here, suspended in mid air, the fellows pick, with their iron instrument, a small place for a footing, cut out the ore in vast masses, and tumble it with a thundering crash to the bottom. In these seemingly precarious situations they make caverns, in which they work for a certain time, till the rope is again lowered to take them up."*

* Tour in North Wales, p. 309.

The substance of the mountain being ore, the work is carried on in a very different manner from the custom of other mines; here are comparatively few shafts or levels, the greater part being quarried out, so as to leave a vast excavation open to the day.

The Parys mountain copper vein, belonging to lord Uxbridge, is very extensive, and contains ore in what are termed by the workmen bellies. These bunches of ore are of different magnitudes, and commonly called *stock works*. The extent of the excavations is commensurate with the length and breadth, necessary to pursue the ramifications of the vein. This vein has been worked on a very large scale, upwards of seven hundred yards, exclusive of considerable workings to the east and west. This line includes the Parys and Mona mines, which are both in the same grand vein. From the boundary of the two mines, to the west-end of the Parys mine, is an open cast excavation, two hundred yards long, one hundred and fifty broad, and from twenty to forty deep, forming a content of nine hundred thousand cubic yards of ground removed. In this part of the mine are several *subterraneous* excavations, and a few trials to the westward. From the boundary of the two mines, to the east-end of the principal workings on the Mona mine, belonging to Mr. Hughes, is a length of vein that extends five hundred yards, containing three large open-cast excavations; out of which four hundred and sixty-eight thousand cubic yards of ground have been taken. Some of the subterraneous works in this part of the mine, are very grand. One excavation is fifty yards long, thirty wide, and from the base to the rugged crown of the arch, forty in height. The roof is supported by one umbilical pillar. Another part of the mine exhibits a similar excavation, forming an entire arch of forty yards in length, fifteen in width, and forty yards high. The under-ground workings are too numerous to particularize. The whole of them will amount to a vacuity of two hundred thousand yards cubical measurement, besides shafts, levels, &c. Some idea may be formed of the vast bodies of ore this part of the mine contained,

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by the quantity raised by two bargains in three months, during the year 1787: in the first, two thousand nine hundred thirty-six tons of good copper ore, and two hundred sixty-seven tons of waste, besides the ore raised by sundry other smaller bargains. There is upwards of four hundred and sixty yards of ground in length in the east part of this, the Parys mine, which has been only partially worked; and in that space there are, in all probability, several bodies of ore undiscovered; but this can only be ascertained by future trials.* In addition to these grand excavations are several considerable shafts, sunk below the bottom or floor of the mine; one is in depth, one hundred and sixty feet, and the lowest part of the shaft is fifty fathoms deep.

"Every corner of these vast excavations resounds with the noise of pickaxes and hammers; the edges are lined with workmen drawing up the ore from below; and at short intervals is heard, from different quarters, the loud explosion of the gunpowder by which the rock is blasted, reverberated in pealing echoes from every side. The exterior covering of the mountain is an aluminous slate; the matrix black-grey chertz; the ore, copper, chiefly

1st. The yellow sulphurated; of which the richest contains, according to miners computation, that is in the proportions of the oz. Troy—Sulphur, 5 dwt. (25 per cent.)—copper, ditto—refuse, 10 dwt. (50 per cent.) The worst ore yields nearly the same quantity of sulphur; but of metal no more than six grains (1¼ per cent.); this inferior kind, however, is chiefly worked for the sulphur. The other species and varieties of ore that the mine produces are—

2d. Black ore, containing copper, mixed with galena, calamine, and a little silver.

3d. Malachite, or green and blue carbonate of copper.

* See an account, drawn up by Mr. Price, agent of the Mona mine, for the new octavo edition of Mr. Pennant's Tour in Wales, and published in the appendix to that work.

4th. Native copper, but in very small quantity.

5th. Sulphate of copper crystallized, and in solution.

6th. Sulphate of lead in considerable quantity, containing a pretty large proportion of silver.

7th. Native sulphur.

Process.—The ore is got from the mine by blasting; after which it is broken into smaller pieces by the hammer (this being chiefly done by women and children) and piled into a kiln, to which is attached by flues a long sulphur chamber. It is now covered close; a little fire is applied in different places, and the whole mass becomes gradually kindled; the sulphur sublimes to the top of the kiln, whence the flues convey it to the chamber appointed for its reception. This smouldering heat is kept up for six months, during which the sulphur chamber is cleared four times, at the expiration of which period the ore is sufficiently roasted. The poorest of this, that is, such as contains from 1½ to 2 per cent. of metal, is then conveyed to smelting houses at Amlwch-port; the rest is sent to the company's furnaces at Swansea and Stanley, near Liverpool. The greater part of the kilns are very long, about six feet high, and the sulphur chambers are of the same length and height, connected by three flues, and on the same level with the kilns; some new ones however have been built at Amlwch-port, by which much sulphur is preserved that would have been dissipated in the old kilns. The new ones are made like lime-kilns, with a contrivance to take out at the bottom the roasted ore, and thus keep up a perpetual fire; from the neck of the kiln branches off a single flue, which conveys the sulphur into a receiving chamber built on the rock, so as to be on a level with the neck of the kiln, *i. e.* above the ore. These kilns will hold from four to thirteen hundred tons of ore.

The two smelting-houses, of which one belongs to each company, contain thirty-one reverberatory furnaces, the chimneys of which are 41 feet high; they are charged every five hours with 12 cwt. of ore, which yields ¼ cwt. of rough copper, containing 50 per cent. of pure metal; the price of rough copper

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is about 2l. 18s. per cwt. The coals are procured from Swansea and Liverpool, a great part of which is Wigan slack. From experiment it appears, that though a ton of coals will reduce more ore, than the same quantity of slack, yet the latter is upon the whole preferable; the prices of the two at Liverpool being, coals 8s. 6d. per ton, slack 5l per ditto. The sulphate of copper however is the richest ore that the mine yields, containing about 50 per cent. of pure metal. This is found in solution at the bottom of the mine, whence it is pumped up into cisterns like tanners pits, about two feet deep; of these pits there are many ranges, each range communicating with a shallow pool of considerable extent; into these cisterns are put cast iron plates, and other damaged iron vessels, procured from Coalbrook-dale; when the sulphuric acid enters into combination with the iron, letting fall the copper in the form of a red sediment, very slightly oxidated. The cisterns are cleared once in a quarter of a year, when the sulphate of iron in solution is let off into the shallow pool, and the copper is taken to a kiln, well dried, and is then ready for exportation. The sulphate of iron remaining in the pool, partly decomposes by spontaneous evaporation, and lets fall a yellow ochre, which is dried and sent to Liverpool and London."*

One ton of iron thus immersed, produces about two tons of copper mud, each of which, when smelted will average sixteen hundred weight of copper; but the precipitate depends much on the kind of iron that is used. If wrought iron is put into mineral water, and left undisturbed, that is, without cleaning to give it a fresh surface, till dissolved, the result will be nearly its own weight of pure copper; which, from the superior quality, sells at a much higher price in the market, than what is obtained from the smelted ore. This mode of precipitating copper from its solvent, by the decomposing power of another metal, is not a recent discovery. It was known more than a century ago to the workmen in the mines of Hungary, where it was termed ziment copper; and was long practised in the

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, p. 134.

the Wicklow mines in Ireland,* anterior to the adoption of the process here. The workmen earn, on an average, eighteen pence a day. But some get the ore at a certain sum per ton. These are called *bargain-takers*, each of which will engage several men under him: and if the rock be easily penetrated, and the ore of good quality, these will earn from four to six shillings a day. After they have worked a given time their pile of ore is examined, by a piece being drawn out and an assay made of the *quality*, by smelting an ounce weight of it in a small crucible, and after being refined by a second process, the button of copper is weighed, the amount of the heaps ascertained, and the bargain-taker accordingly remunerated for his labour. The quantity of copper ore annually raised it is not easy to ascertain. The Parys mine has produced from five to ten thousand tons per quarter, besides about fifteen tons of precipitated copper; and the Mona mine nearly an equal quantity. But at present the quantity falls far short of this. From some cause of failure in the quantity or quality of the ore, little is done at the Parys mine; and the proprietor is causing the refuse ore to be fluxed, which a few years back was not considered worth the trouble and expence of smelting. Nor is the Mona mine worked with that spirit, nor to an equal extent, as when the late Mr. Williams was a copartner in the concern.

The number of men employed in the underground workings of the Mona mine, in the year 1806, were 227, the consumption of gunpowder 17,036 lb. and of candles 26,288 lb. In 1807,

* The discovery there is said to have been accidental; from the mines of Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, issues a stream, strongly impregnated with sulphate of Copper. In this, one of the workmen accidentally left an iron shovel, which, when he found some weeks after, was so incrusted with copper, as to induce him to suppose the metal had been *transmuted*. The proprietors profited by the incident. They had proper receptacles formed for the reception of the water and precipitation of the metal, and the stream became of equal importance with the mines.

1807, 237 were employed, the consumption of gunpowder was 15,345 lb. and of candles 23,321 lb. In 1808, 122 men were employed, and 6,300 lb. of gunpowder, and 9,200 lb. of candles were consumed, and subsequent to these periods the energy in working has considerably relaxed,

The sulphur produced by roasting the poorer kind of ores, after being melted and refined, is cast into rolls and sent to London. The cones are chiefly used for manufacturing gunpowder and sulphuric acid. For some time a manufactory of *green* and *blue vitriol* was carried on, but the concern, not having been found to answer, has been some time abandoned. An *alum* work is conducted here upon a very singular and admirable plan. The argillaceous earth, forming the base of this neutral salt, is found near the spot, in a stratum about six feet beneath the surface of the ground. This earth is laid over the heaps of ore in a state of roasting, from which it becomes impregnated with the sulphuric acid gas, disengaged by heat from the copper; and when sufficiently saturated the composition is placed in shallow pits, filled with water, where it is stirred about till the specific gravity of the solution exceeds that of common water one-twelfth. Then it is conveyed in troughs to a range of leaden pans, where by a gentle heat a certain portion is evaporated, and the remainder drawn off into refrigeratories or coolers, to crystallize; and after being refined by a second crystallization, it becomes a merchantable article.

The mountain also produces an ore of *zinc*, which in a similar manner is exposed to the roasting kilns, and becomes amalgamated with the sulphuric particles. It is then dissolved in water, and after the process of evaporation and crystallization, it is sent off to the London market. "Nature," Mr. Pennant observes, "hath been profuse in bestowing her mineral favours on this spot; for above the copper ore, and not more than three quarters of a yard beneath the common soil, is a bed of yellowish greasy clay, from one to four yards thick, containing

containing *lead ore*,* and yielding from six hundred to a thousand pounds weight of lead from one ton; and one of the metal yields not less than fifty-seven ounces of silver. Mixed with the earth are frequently certain parts, of the colour of cinnabar: whether these are symptomatic of the sulpharous arsenical silver ores, or of quick-silver, I will not pretend to decide. Something interferes with the successful smelting of this earth in the great: insomuch that it has not yet been of that profit to the adventurers, which might reasonably be expected from the crucible assays of it; and they have at this time about eight thousand tons on bank undisposed of†. Since the defalcation in the copper concern, more attention has been paid to this species of mineral treasure, and smelting works have been erected on a large scale; but, from the very high price of coals, and the decreasing demand for lead, this work is at present on the decline."

Amlwch, a village, or rather hamlet, formerly consisting of six houses, occupied by fishermen, has, by the labour, requisite at these works so increased, as to become the size of a large town; and for the demands of the inhabitants has a well supplied weekly market. By the returns made to government in 1801, the number of houses was 1025, and the population amounted to 4977; of which the number of 1581 were reported to be employed in trade and manufacture. The town is said to derive its name from a lake in the vicinity, which has lately been drained, and is now in a state of cultivation. But loch, or lwch, is not the Welsh name for a lake. *Llwch* is a sandy beach, and *am* about, which forms *Amllwch*, exactly descriptive of the site of the place in its pristine state. The church dedicated

* Researches for lead ore have been made at this place at a remote period. In the bottom of the lake, near Parys mountain, was found an ancient smelting hearth, formed of gritstone, and several pieces of smelted lead, about four inch longs, two broad, and half one thick.

† Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 66.

dedicated to *St. Eleuth* *, a saint of the British calendar, is a neat structure, exclusive of this, the town affords nothing remarkable for the inquisitive traveller. The port is a large chasm between two lofty rocks, running far into land, and dry at low water, into which small vessels strand to take in their lading. The breadth only permits two vessels to ride abreast; yet is sufficient in length and depth to receive thirty sloops and brigs, from fifty to two hundred tons burthen. This natural creek has been much improved by art, at the expence of the copper companies, for the convenience of their own shipping; and though a small port, is well adapted for the business of exportation: but has the disadvantage of being too much exposed to the swell of the ocean, and is difficult and dangerous of access during the prevalence of high northerly winds, which drive in a heavy sea up the neck of the harbour.

Since Mr. Arthur Aikin's visit to this place, its appearance, and the circumstances of the people, have experienced a melancholy alteration. Poverty was then the general lot of its inhabitants, yet that was in some measure supported by labour, and sweetened by its remuneration. But the failure in the mines, and the present inactivity of the proprietors, have cast a paralyzing damp upon this once flourishing place; and changed that enviable state, so pleasingly described in this author's interesting tour, when during the time of relaxation.

"Mean time the song went round, and dance and sport,
Wisdom and friendly talk successive stole
Their hours away: while in the rosy vale
Love breath'd his infant sighs, from anguish free,
And full replete with bliss, save the sweet pain,
That inly thrilling, but exalts it more."

THOMSON.

"These were thy charms sweet, village! sports like these
With sweet succession taught e'en toil to please;
These round thy bowers their cheerful influence shed,
These were thy charms—But all these charms are fled!—

* A royal bard and saint, who flourished from about the year 640 to 700. One of his poetical compositions is inserted in the Myvyrian Archaiology.

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about [illegible] two [illegible] k.

"These gentle hours that plenty bade to bloom,
Those calm desires that ask'd but little room,
These healthful sports that grac'd the peaceful scene
Liv'd in each look and brightened all the green;
These, far departing, seek a kinder shore
And rural mirth and manners are no more."

GOLDSMITH."

In contemplating these circumstances, the condition of the inhabitants, and the state of the surrounding districts, the mind is led to inquire, whether these mines have been advantageous, or disadvantageous to the welfare of the island? And all coincide to furnish a *negative* answer to the question. For it has been justly observed on this subject, and the remarks are peculiarly applicable to Anglesea, that to mining, amongst other causes, may be attributed the present uncultivated state of the island, and the immense proportion of waste lands; for it is an observation that applies to every country, where a spirit of mining is discoverable, there, in proportion, the spirit of patient industry, so necessary to agriculture, flags, and the labours of husbandry dwindle. The inhabitants generally become poor, and the face of the country wears evident marks of neglect and wretchedness: a system of adventure is generally accompanied by a spirit of gambling, and a mine discovered is considered as a fortune made. The minds of the inhabitants are called off from concerns more immediately pertinent, and engaged in delusive dreams of imaginary gain; property is called in to aid the imagination, and the aggregate capital and labour of a district that would have ameliorated the soil, and made the land a perennial source of wealth, is sunk, by diving into the earth some hundred fathoms; only to convince the adventurers that much has been spent, and barring the failure, much might have been gained. Because one mine has answered, and a few individuals have been enriched, all expect that similar pursuits must be crowned with equal success; not reflecting that where much is acquired, much must have been risqued; and if but few

few have proved fortunate, many must have failed: like the golden dreamers who support the lottery, counting the larger prizes, without once considering, that the very nature of a prize, bespeaks a blank, and the larger the one, the more numerous must be the other.

The peasantry, necessary to till the ground, are collected to one or two barren spots, whereby the soil is deprived of the means essential to its improvement. The poor are easily enticed to an employment, however dangerous in the pursuit, or hazardous in the issue, from the higher wages held up by the adventurers; high wages tend to corrupt the morals of the lower classes, and invariably weaken the sinews of industry; the views of the peasant are generally confined to the present hour: if he obtain more than he can properly spend to day, he has lost the motive for labour to-morrow; idleness naturally superinduces vice; and vice is the infallible road to misery and want. It is not to be expected that these people should calculate, or that they should observe, what produces great and sudden gain to the proprietors, cannot ensure certain employment for the labourers; much less do they foresee, that, in case of failure, they will be suddenly turned adrift, to seek a livelihood where it may be found; and that their families will be left in a starving state, while the land, on which the burden must fall, is not in a condition to support it. Those who have acquired riches from the bowels of the earth, and their united labours, and from whom they might expect the boon of charity, have left their residence, and repaired to the seats of luxury and dissipation. Observations like these, will obtrude themselves on the discriminating traveller, and whoever has been attentive to facts, cannot but have remarked, that wherever mines have abounded, agriculture has been in a despicable state, and the lower classes generally in the most abject poverty. By these remarks, it is not meant to despise the pursuits of mineralogy, so essential to our manufactures, but to place them in their proper subordinate rank; and to say, that mining should never

never meet with pointed encouragement, till the agriculture of a country is in an improved and respectable condition.

The district to the north-west of Amlwch consists principally of an extensive sandy plain, which from some cultivated parts, exhibits marks of great fertility. The coast is intersected by several creeks and bays, and off it are three small islands, called the east, middle, and west *Mouse*. The middle one also is usually named *Inys Badrig*, from a circumstance recorded in the legendary life of the great Irish evangelist, *St. Patrick*; and on the opposite point stands a church denominated after him, LLANBADRIG. At a short distance from this, *Cemlyn bay* affords safe anchorage for small vessels, and receives the waters of the river *Gwygir*. In the adjacent parish of LLANFECHELL, is a large fallen cromlech, and also a fine quarry of very curious and beautiful marble, known to statuaries by the name of *Verde de Corsica*, and *verde antiche*; formerly procured from Corsica, or Italy. Its variegated colours are black, dull purple, divers shades of green, irregularly disposed, and sometimes intersected with white asbestine veins. This is a compound species of marble, partly composed of calcareous earth, soluble in nitric acid; and partly of magnesian; the whole constituting what is termed *serpentine*, in systems of mineralogy. From this quarry, which was lately purchased for one thousand pounds, blocks of a large size are procured, and capable of taking a high polish, they are cut into slabs, and worked up into chimney-pieces, side boards, and sepulchral ornaments.

YNYS Y MOEL RHONIAID, or *the Isle of Seals*, commonly called the *Skerries*, lying in front of the village of LLANRHWYDRUS, about half a league from the shore, is inhabited by a few poor sheep, and a numerous colony of rabbits; but is seldom visited, except in the season of puffins; the turbulency of the heavy sea, which runs through the narrow channel, presenting a prohibitory obstacle to adventurous curiosity. The surface of the island, is composed principally of bare, or half covered rocks, and on its highest elevation was erected about

the year 1780, a *light house**, for the convenience of ships, navigating between Ireland, and the ports of Liverpool and Chester. Though this light has been of great service, yet wrecks are still frequent on this coast, and to an observant mind, the projecting promontory, on the opposite side of the channel, denominated *Cader Rhwydrus*, furnishes a far more eligible site for a phatos; because the light would be visible to a much greater extent. This island anciently formed part of the property, belonging to the church of Bangor, and the members of that cathedral claimed an exclusive right of fishery on its shores. By some inattention on the part of the ecclesiastical steward, the privilege had been invaded, and a claim set up by the house of Penrhyn. In consequence of which, about the year 1498, bishop Dean made inquisition into the nature of the plea, in *person* resumed the fishery, and on that occasion is said to have taken twenty eight, "fishis called Grapas, whom Sir William Griffith sent his son, and heire apparante with divers men in harnes, wiche ryetwsely in the seid bishope's diocese took the seid fishis from the servants of the said bishope†." This usurpation occasioned a legal contest, which terminated in the establishment of the prelatical right to the fishery. About the cliffs of this island, sport innumerable multitudes of fish, principally coalfish, cod, whiting, and what the Welsh call *gwrach*, the *Labrus tinca* of Linnæus.

Carreg Lwyd, a good mansion, amidst fine luxuriant plantations, is the residence of *Holland Griffith, Esq.* one among the spirited and patriotic gentry of Anglesea, who from their example and encouragements are endeavouring to ameliorate their country by improving its agriculture ‡ the most permanent of all national resources.

In

* British vessels, passing this light house, pay one penny per ton, foreign do. two pence, and the annual produce from this tonnage, Mr. Pennant states in the year 1750, amounted to 1100. It has since increased to upwards of 1400l.

‡ By the exertions of this gentleman, and his laudable coadjutors, an agricultural society has been lately instituted, which has already, though

In the parish of LLANFAIR-YNGHORNWY is a stratum of serpentine marble, containing narrow veins of a white silky asbestine kind of substance, which from its brittle nature prevents the stone from taking a very high polish: in consequence the quarrying has some time been abandoned. This has been supposed a similar substance to the *asbestos*, indestructible by fire, which the ancients considered equally estimable in value with pearls; and, as Pliny relates, only to be found in a territory of India, where rain never fell, and the residence of poisonous serpents and fiery scorpions. But what forms the intersections of this compound marble, is a sort of floscular calcareous crystallization, which, though very fragile, assumes a filmy appearance.

Monachty, in this parish, from the name, and the remains of a chapel, is said to have been anciently the site of a religious house, but the appellation was probably derived from its having constituted a part of the possessions, belonging to the abbey of Conway. This and two other adjacent farms are, to the present time, exempt from the payment of tithes.

About a mile from the village is one of those ancient monuments, called *meini hirion*, consisting of three large upright stones, standing at the distance of about five hundred yards from each other, the intermediate space forming nearly an equilateral triangle. In the vicinity of these are two circular encampments with a single foss and vallum, denominated *Castell Crwn*; and not far distant, in the parish of LLANFLEWYN, were dug up, some years ago, three golden bracelets, and a *bulla* of the same metal, in high preservation, which were in possession of the late Mr. Pennant, who says, that he kept them "as curious memorials of the residence of the *Romans* in ancient Mona." On this remarkable ornament, worn by the Roman youth. Mr. Whitaker makes these curious observations:

in its infancy, had some influence upon the state of husbandry; and promises to be the means in a few years of changing for the better the face of the island.

tions:—"This well-known ornament of the Roman boys was made originally of leather among all ranks of people, I apprehend; as so it continued among the inferior to the last; and though it has never been suspected, it was plainly, I think, intended at first for an amulet rather than an ornament. That lively spirit of religiousness, which I have noticed before in the genius of the Romans, was greatly tinctured with superstition. And they hung amulets about the necks of their children, representing different parts of the human body, and even those which are characteristic of man. Upon the same principle, assuredly, bullas were originally made in the form of hearts. And what seems a full evidence that they wore amulets, they were frequently impressed with the figure of the sexual parts besides.

But they did not always retain the form of an heart, any more than they were always composed of leather. As the wealth of the state and the riches of individuals increased, the young patrician distinguished himself by a bulla of gold, while the common people wore the amulet of their ancestors. And the figure of an heart was laid aside for that of a circle. The bullas then became so generally round, and some even bearing the impression of an heart upon them, that there are not many of the original form, I believe, to be found in the cabinets of the curious. But many are preserved of the other; and one, particularly, was discovered about 40 years ago in Lancashire, being accidentally picked up by a lady in the station of Overborough. And when once the form had varied from an heart to a circle, the gradation was easy from a circle to a segment of it. There was some fantastical reason, no doubt, the suggestion of the original superstition, for using the former. And as good an one would easily be found in the reveries of religious folly, for adopting the latter. One Mancunian bulla is of this figure, and the only one that I know of in the kingdom. Very few indeed have been found within it. I recollect none at present, but our own and the Overborough bulla. And many cannot be expected, the leathern, that were lost must long since have

perished. And what can we hope for of the golden, when they were thrown off at the age of puberty, and a patrician's son was not likely to come over and serve in the armies before? They can be expected only from the sons of patricians settled in the island, and employed in the civil or military offices of the country. And the number of these was in all probability small."*

Llantrisant church contains a plain handsome monument, sacred to the memory of the reverend *Dr. Hugh Williams*, ancestor of the *Wynnstay* family, and who derived his descent from *Cadrod Hardd*, a British chieftain. On the monument is a short epitaph, but the following, engraved on a flat stone beneath, comprises more particulars.

"*Hugh Williams de Nantanog* S. S. Theologiæ professor hujus ecclesiæ et illius de *Llanrhuddlad* rector. Prebendarius de Vaynol in dioces Asaphen. Comportionarius de Llanddinam in agro Montgomeriensi. 21 Septembris ætatis anno 74. Dmi 1670, libentissime pro gregibus, fidei suæ comissis impendens et impensus p'claro certamine decertato cursum peregit.

Disce,

Boni pastoris interest non tantum pervigilare,
Sed impendere et impendi pro gregibus."

Sir William Williams, son of the above-mentioned Dr. Williams, was a distinguished character in the reigns of Charles the Second, and James the Second. He became a scholar of Jesus College, Oxford, in the year 1652, but removed two years after to Gray's Inn; and having been called to the bar, was made recorder of Chester, and represented that city in three successive *annual* parliaments: in the last two of which he held the office of *Speaker*. In the thirty-sixth year of Charles the Second, he was tried on an information of libel, preferred against him in the Court of King's Bench, for having caused to be printed, as speaker of the house, the information of *Thomas Dangerfield*,

* History of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 79.

Dangerfield, gent. And notwithstanding he pleaded in abatement, that by the law and custom of parliament, the speaker of the commons, according to the duty of his office, as a servant of the house, and during the sessions, had a right to speak, sign, and publish its proceedings, in such a manner as might be ordered by that honourable body; and that the speaking, signing, and publishing of the speaker was usually considered, as its own act and deed, and that the speaker ought not for such assumed liberty, to answer in any *other court*, or *place*, but in *parliament*; yet for licensing the said information to be printed, the court amerced him ten thousand pounds; and it is stated, that he was compelled to pay the greater portion of the fine. He was considered the most eminent lawyer of the time in which he lived, and returned knight of the shire for Caernarvon in three parliaments. When James the second acceded to the throne, Mr. Williams was taken into royal favour, and made the king's solicitor-general: in which capacity he acted at the memorable trial of *the seven bishops*. In the beginning of December 1687, he received the honour of knighthood, at Whitehall; and two years after was advanced to the dignity of a baronetcy. He married Mary, daughter and coheiress of Watkyn Kyffin, of Glascoed, in the county of Denbigh, by whom he had two sons and a daughter; and died at his chambers in Gray's Inn, July 11, 1700.*

PRESADDFED, the seat of *Sir John Bulkeley*, lies a little to the north of the London road. The house stands on the site of an ancient mansion, once the residence of *Hwfa ap Cynddelw*, a progenitor of one, among the distinguished Northwallian tribes, who, according to Rowlands†, held his estate in *fee*‡, by attending

* See Kimber and Johnson's Baronetage, Vol. II. p. 496.

† Mona Antiqua, p. 132.

‡ This kind of attendance, which constituted a condition of a fee, as service did of inferior tenures, appears to have been of divers sorts, according to the several occasional demands of the prince, in time of peace or war. The persons subject to the obligation were the nobles, or barons, and therefore the attendance is sometimes denominated, *baron-service*. These lords had numerous

ing the coronation of the prince, and supporting the canopy on that occasion. Near this place, out of a small lake issues a rivulet, which soon becomes tributary to the river Alaw; and at a little distance, in a field, are two large *cromlechs*;* the one standing, and the other down. The table stone of the former measures thirteen feet in length, by nine in breadth, and is supported by three others, six feet in height. The one demolished is nearly of equal dimensions. On an adjacent eminence, in an erect posture, is a *maen hir*, or upright stone, about nine feet high, called *Llech-gwen-farwyd*, whence the parish received its appellation.

Gwindu, or *Gwindy*, considered the half way house and the posting inn on the mail road through the island from London to Ireland, being nearly an equal distance between Bangor ferry and Holyhead, is said to derive its name from *gwin*, wine, and *ty*, a habitation; euphonized according to the genius of the British language into *dy*; a compound term equivalent to the *wine-house*. On this "comfortable inn," as Mr. Pennant terms it, he observes, "there are few towns in Wales, which have not one of that name: but the use has long been lost. In old times most gentlemen's houses had one in their neighbourhood, where they met their friends and retainers, to *ymgampio*, or to exert feats of activity. Here the gentleman kept a cellar for wine, which he retailed for his own profit. Here they passed the day in archery, wrestling, throwing the sledge, and other manly exercises. At first the drinking was moderate; but at length the purpose was abused; and these places were made the sanctuary for all sorts of crimes, committed by the dependents or friends of the owner of the *gwindy*, who were recommended to his care: and there *Llawruddion*

rous under-tenants both of freed-men as well as vassals, over whom they were lords in fee. And the learned historian of Anglesea thinks it a question worthy further investigation, whether, previous to the time of Edward the third, there was any such a thing as fee-simple existing through Wales, except what existed in noble feudatory possessions.

* This is not included in a list of twenty-eight of these ancient monuments enumerated by Mr. Bingley, as yet visible in the island.

ruddius; i. e. persons who came *red-handed* from a murder, were protected till composition could be made for their crimes."* The *hospitality* of Wales, proverbial in history, is injured by this statement; and the ghost, if ghosts now walk, must be seen coming for satisfaction, during the dead of night, stalking in terrific array, through the spacious hall or long-drawn passages of *Bodychan*. This ancient building converted into a barn was once the seat of *Rhys ap Llewelyn ap Hwlkyn*, the first sheriff appointed for this island in the time of Henry the Eighth, and which office he held by royal mandate "durante termino vitæ suæ," as long as he lived. This distinction he received as an acknowledgment for services, performed at the head of a company on behalf of the Lancastrian party, at the celebrated battle of *Bosworth field*. Part of his house, during his shrievality, constituted the county prison, the dungeon of which is still remaining. The property now belongs to *J. B. Sparrow, Esq.* who has a handsome mansion at RED-HILL near Beaumaris.

Leaving the mail road at LLANYNGENEDLE, another branches off to the right across the sands, which are fordable at very low water to *Penrhôs*, where in a bleak and dreary situation, stands PENRHOS HALL, a handsome modern mansion, lately erected under the direction of *Mr. Defferd*, and the present residence of *Lady Stanley*.

HOLYHEAD,

Denominated in British *Caer Cybi*, or the fortified place of Cybi†, is situated on a small island, at the north western extre-

 mity

* Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 129. It is with reluctance that the writer of this work is obliged to differ in opinion on the occasion from an author, who has evinced such an extensive acquaintance with the history and antiquities of the principality. But it is obvious to remark, that in Wales every single, or isolated house, has some appropriate distinctive name, generally taken from the natural attendant circumstances of the situation. In other cases from the shape, constructive substance, or colour of the building: *Gwynty* or *Gwyndy*, is literally the *white-house*, so called, from its being white washed, and this decorative taste has rendered the appellation very general through the country.

† Mr. Pennant states, that he was surnamed Corineus, and a son of Solomon duke of Cornwall, received his religious education under Hilarius, bishop

mity of Anglesea, called *Inys Cybi*, from having been the residence of an eminent British saint, who after visiting Gaul, and distinguishing himself by his refutation of the heretical opinions of Arius, returned to his native country; and here in pious retirement spent the remainder of his days. Though it does not appear the Romans ever made any settlement in Ireland, yet from the account furnished by Tacitus*, respecting their connection with the British Isles, it is evident they traded with that country; when its ports and harbours for commercial purposes were perhaps more frequented, than at any subsequent period. No place could be better adapted for such an intercourse, both by the short distance between the British and Hibernian shores; its projecting far westward into the *Mare Vergivium* of Ptolemy, now denominated, the Irish sea; and its lying in the vicinity of the Roman stations, on the western coasts of *Flavia Cæsariensis*. From various remains of fortifications, in which the discriminating peculiarities of Roman workmanship are discoverable, it is highly probable the port was in possession of that enterprising people. On the summit of the mountain, called *Pen Caer Cybi*, is *Caer twr*, a circular building ten feet in diameter, which Mr. Pennant supposes to be the remains of an ancient *pharos*, or watch tower. On the side of the mountain runs a long dry wall ten feet high, in many places regularly faced, and quite entire. The precinct of the church yard seems to put in an equal claim for antiquity. The form is a parallelogram about two hundred and twenty feet long, and one hundred and thirty broad. Three of the sides consist of massy walls, six feet thick, and seventeen in height. The fourth is open to the harbour, having only a low parapet, laid on the precipitous cliffs. At each angle is a circular bastion tower; and along the walls are two rows of round openings, or oeillets, four inches in diameter, having

bishop of Poitiers; and, in honour of his instructor's memory, called one of the head lands of this insular spot, *St. Hilary's*, now *St. Elian's* point. Mr. Owen in his Cambrian Biography says, he was a son of "Selyv ab Geraint ab Erbin" and flourished in the sixth century.

* In Vita Agricolæ.

having the inside smoothly plaistered. The cement mixed with coarse pebbles, is extremely hard, and this, in conjunction with other circumstances, exhibits evident marks of Roman masonry. Some antiquaries, however, are of opinion, that the place was fortified in the sixth century by *Caswallon Law-hir*, to repel the aggressions of the Irish Picts, who, after the departure of the Romans, made frequent depredatory incursions into this part of Britain. These maranders, invading Anglesea, after having massacred many of the islanders, at a place still denominated, from the cruel circumstances, *Cerrig y Gwyddel*, or the Hibernian rock, endeavoured to establish themselves, preparatory to future hostilities, by fortifying a place, called *Din dryfal*. On this occasion Caswallon, who had recently ascended the throne of North Wales, assembled an army, marched against the invaders, forced them to a battle, and having slain *Sirigi* their leader, made ample retaliation on the spot, which forms the site of the present town of Holyhead,*

A *religious house* is said to have been erected here, by prince Maelgwyn, so early as the latter part of the sixth century :† but the house for canons regular, called THE COLLEGE, appears to have been founded by Hwfa ap Cynddelw, lord of Llys Llifon, a cotemporary of Owen Gwynedd, who commenced his regal career in the year 1137. The head of this institution, formerly one of the three spiritual lords of Anglesea, Mr. Pennant observes, was usually denominated "*Penclas*‡, or *Pencolas*"; but by the inscription on the exergue of the ancient seal, belonging to the chapter, "Sigillum Rectoris et capitali ecclesia de Caer Gybi," it appears his customary title was that of *rector*. He was styled in a subsequent period, provost; for Edward the Third bestowed "the provostship of his free chapel of Caer Cube on his chaplain Thomas de London, for which the king in 1351 dispensed with

* Rowland's Mona Antiqua, p. 147.

† History of Anglesey, p. 29.

‡ This is probably a mistake for *Pencais*, that is, a chief judge in ecclesiastical matters, or a receiver general of a district.

services to himself."* The original number of canons is uncertain; by an inquisition made in the year 1553, twelve persons, styled prebendaries, were found on the pension list, receiving an annual allowance of twenty shillings each†. Prior to the dissolution, the provost had an income of thirty nine marks, one chaplain a stipend of thirteen do.; and two others, each a moiety of the latter sum. The estimate, therefore, made in the time of Henry the Eighth, of its annual revenues, as amounting to only twenty-four pounds, must have been an under valuation. This college was granted by James the First, to Francis Morris, and Francis Phillips. It afterwards became the property of Rice Gwynne Esq. who in the year 1640 transferred the great tithes to Jesus College Oxford, for the maintenance of two scholars, and two fellows‡.

The collegiate, now the parochial CHURCH, is a handsome embattled cruciform structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, aisles, and transept, with a square tower, surmounted by a low flat-kind of spire. The present edifice, exclusive of the chancel, appears to have been erected about the time of Edward the third. The inside of the entrance porch, and the external part of the south end of the transept are decorated with rude carvings. On the latter are the figures of a dragon, a man leading a bear, and other grotesque representations. On the pediments and battlements are cherubic heads, and on one, two figures in a supplicating posture with this inscriptive prayer, "Sancta Kub: ora pro nobis."

A SCHOOL was established here in 1745, and the school-house constructed of materials, taken from an ancient religious building, called *Llan y Gwyddel,* or the Irish church. *Sirigi,* an Hibernian chieftain, having been here slain, as previously stated, was interred in this place; and canonized by his countrymen, his shrine was long frequented, for the reputed miracles performed at the tomb.

AN

* Newcourt's Repertorium, Vol. I. p. 453.

† Willis's Abbies, Vol. I. p. 303.

‡ Tanner's Notit. Monast.

An Assembly Room and baths have lately been opened for public accommodation, but the town possesses few attractions for the votaries of pleasure.* It consists of one principal street, with several detached buildings, and according to the census in 1801, the number of houses was 473, and the population amounted to 2132. The weekly market on Saturdays is well supplied, particularly with fish.

The island on which the town is situated, being the nearest point of land toward Dublin, has always occasioned it to become a resort of numerous persons, passing between England and Ireland. The passage by sea both from Liverpool and Parkgate, has been found extremely hazardous, owing to the vicinity of the Welsh coast; along which vessels to and from either of those places must consequently pass, for half the voyage: and during heavy gales, by having been under the necessity of nearing it, many wrecks have occurred. The superior advantages, therefore, Holyhead presented for this maritime communication, induced individuals first, to fix upon it as a station for the purpose; and government afterwards, as the rendezvous of the packets, or vessels charged with the conveyance of the mails. The eligibility of this port for the mutual intercourse between the two countries, arises from ships being able in a short time to clear the land, in less danger of getting embayed, than from the above mentioned havens; and the distance by water considerably less. The extent of sea between Holyhead and Dublin, is twenty leagues, which the packets generally sail in twelve hours. They have been known to run it in six: but in stormy weather, or contrary winds, the voyage has taken up two or three days. Six are in the constant employment of the Post-Office†, and from these being remarkably stout and well constructed

* It is, however, in an improving state; the streets have lately been new paved, the causeways repaired, and a large new inn and hotel opened for the better accommodation of travellers.

† One goes out every day, except Thursday; and barring accident, returns the next morning.

constructed sloops, strongly manned, and having skilful masters; serious disasters have seldom happened. The *harbour* is formed by the cliffs under the church-yard, and a small island called Inys Cybi, on which is a light. The tide, however, runs rapidly out, and the port becomes a dry harbour.

Holyhead constituting such an important communication between, what till since the late union, were considered the three kingdoms, has recently become the subject of national investigation. Facility of intercourse, so essential to the interests of each, has laudably occupied the attention of government. Two plans were presented for the accomplishment of this desirable object. The first in contemplation was, to erect a pier at Porth yn Llyn, twenty-two miles south-west of Caernarvon; which from the statement might thus be rendered "one of the best and safest harbours in the kingdom." That, however, for reasons more of a political, than a patriotic nature, was abandoned; and the second adopted. This was building a pier on the eastern side of Holyhead harbour, and thus enabling vessels to ride at anchor in four fathom water, instead of being stranded, or lying aground. Previous to this, before a ship could get out, the tide must flow three hours at spring, and four at neap tides.

This improving plan is now executing, and in further aid of it, a new road is projected, to be made quite across the country, from Cadnant Island, near Bangor Ferry, to the port, by which the distance would be reduced from twenty-five to eighteen miles; and several hills also avoided. The portion from Lady Stanley's villa, to Holyhead, will shortly be completed.

For the further accommodation also of the port, a new *light house* has been erected on a small island, or rather protruding rock, to the west of the head, called the *South Stack*.* The light is produced by Argand's lamps, and the elevation above the

* The sea breaks so powerfully in the narrow channel, that no boat could stem it. Persons, therefore, to see the light-house, are wafted over in a kind of basket, by means of blocks and ropes.

the level of the sea, is about two hundred feet. This is constructed upon a grand scale, so that the visibility extends through the whole of Caernarvon bay. The principle being a revolving light, renders it easily distinguishable from the one on the island of Skerries; from which it bears south-west half west, distant nearly eight miles. The promontory, strictly called *the Head*, is either an immense precipice, or huge mass of rocks hollowed into most magnificent caves; one is peculiarly worthy of observation. It has received the vulgar appellation of the Parliament-house, from the frequent visits made by water parties to see this wonderful cavern: it being only accessible by boats, and that at half ebb tide. It is one of those usual phenomena produced by the action of sea water upon the soluble parts of stratified rocks; more especially, where calcareous substances are prevalent in their composition. Grand receding arches of different shapes, supported by pillars of rock, exhibit such a magnificent scene, that cannot fail to astonish the beholder, unaccustomed to Nature's bolder works. The promontory consists of high cliffs of various heights, abounding with large caverns, which afford shelter for innumerable birds, such as pigeons, gulls, razor bills, ravens, guillemots, cormorants, and herons. On the loftiest crags lurks the peregrine falcon, the bird so high in repute while falconry continued a fashionable amusement. The eggs of many of these birds are sought after as delicious food, and considered as a great treat to the epicurean. The price procured for them is a sufficient inducement for the poor, to follow the adventurous trade of egg-taking: but in this, as in the pearl-fishery on the coasts of Persia, the gains bear no tolerable proportion to the danger incurred. The adventurers having furnished themselves with every necessary implement for the business, while the sun affords assistance by his beams, enter on the terrific undertaking: two, for this is a trade in which co-partnership is absolutely necessary, take a station; he, whose turn it happens to be, or whose superior agility renders it eligible, prepares for the rupestrian expedition: a strong stake is driven into the ground at some distance from the edge

of

of the cliff, to which a rope of sufficient length to reach the lowest haunts of those birds is affixed: fastening the other end round his middle, and taking the coil on his arm, and laying hold with both his hands, he throws himself over the brow of the cliff; placing his feet against its sides, and carefully shifting his hands, he gradually descends till he comes to the abode of the birds; then, putting his left hand into the hole, while suspending himself with the other, he takes possession of its contents; carefully placing the eggs in a basket slung at his back for the purpose. Having despoiled all the nests within his extent of rope, he ascends by the same means to the edge of the cliff, where his partner, whose duty hitherto was to guard the stake, crawling on hands and knees, affords him assistance in doubling the cliff, which otherwise he would be unable to do. Dangerous employ! a slip of the foot, or the hand would in an instant be fatal to both: instances have occurred, where the weight of the one overcoming the strength of the other, both have been precipitated down the craggy steep, and their mangled carcases buried in the ocean: but these are rare. To a stranger and bye stander, this occupation appears more dangerous than it really is; in persons habituated to bodily difficulty, the nervous system becomes gradually braced, and the solids attain that state of rigidity, which banishes irritability; while the mind, accustomed to scenes of danger, loses that timidity which frequently leads to the dreaded disaster. To the person whose heart palpitates at the near approach to such heights, it must appear a presumptuous employ, and daily instances of its fatality might be expected; but fact demonstrates the contrary, and serves to prove how much we are the creatures of habit, and to what an extent difficulty and danger may be made subordinate to art and perseverance. A sight of this perilous employ will remind the beholder of that fine description,

"How fearful
"And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!
"The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway air,
"Show scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down
"Hangs one who gathers samphire; dreadful trade!" Shakespeare.

This

This dissevered member of Anglesea, which from the number of pious persons interred, received the name of Holy Island, has had, subsequent to the Bardic period, peculiar attentions paid it, in a religious point of view. The foundations of *Capel y Gerlles, Capel St. Ffraid, &c. &c.* are still traceable "amongst several which are scattered about this holy promontory." The whole of this small island consists principally of barren rocks, or dreary sands. A common, called Towyn y Capel is bounded on the western side by rocks, over which during the prevalence of high winds the sea breaks in a most stupendous and awful manner: many of these from being sunken at full tide, are justly the dread of mariners. The southern part of this tract of country constitutes the parish of *Rhoscolyn*, in which near what is called *Four-mile bridge*, is a quarry of serpentine, or marble, containing a green amianthus, or brittle asbestos, similar to that, previously described, under the title of Verde di Corsica. The channel, dividing this from the other part of Anglesea, is narrow, and fordable in places, at low water. The great Irish road is carried over a bridge, called from the circumstance of its formerly having been a ford, *Rhyd y Bont*, or Rhyd y Pont. The country from hence to the south western part of the island, is uninteresting and dreary, and the unpleasant impressions, it occasions to the traveller, are increased by the recurrent and reverberated sounds of distant horns.*

ABERFFRAW,

Or *Aberffraw*, situated at the place, where the river Ffraw discharges its waters into a small bay of the same name, was one of the three royal residences of Wales: and a seat of their principal courts of justice. Here the Northwallian princes had for centuries

* These are constantly sounding in all directions to call the labourers on the respective farms to their meals.

centuries* a magnificent palace, and here was deposited one of the three copies of the celebrated code of laws, enacted by the great Cambrian legislator *Howel Dda or Hywel Dda.*†

Few vestiges, however, at present are left to mark its former greatness. Some trifling remains of the ancient palace are shewn in the walls of a building, now used as a barn; but this is only analogous conjecture. By the returns made to government under the population act, the number of houses, in 1801, amounted to 179; and inhabitants to 936. These find employment principally in husbandry and fishing. A small harbour, capable of admitting sloops of forty tons burthen, is of some little advantage to the neighbourhood, by the facility it affords for the exportation of corn. Several thousand bushels of oats, and barley, are annually shipped at this port; an evident proof of the fertility of the circumjacent country. Though the market has long been discontinued, yet there are in this, as in many other places in the island, two chapels for the people generally denominated Methodists; the one for those of Calvinistic, and the other, for those of Arminian tenets.

Here was born WALTER STEWARD, who according to Rowlands, was the ancestor of the royal house of the *Stewards* or *Stuarts*, kings of Scotland and of England. "We have," he says, after enumerating several distinguishing particulars, in favour of his native island, "by a strange compensation of Providence, the honour to say, that her late majesty, queen Anne of glorious memory, as well as some of her royal ancestors before her, enjoyed the ancient kingdom of Scotland, the kingdom of England, and the principality of Wales, by right of inheritance, from persons whose descent and origin were from the Isle of Anglesey.

* Roderic the Great, about the year 870, fixed upon this place as the seat of government for his successors, and from that period, it continued to be a royal residence till the death of Llewelyn, in 1282.

† Another transcript of this celebrated system of Jurisprudence was ordered to be kept also at Dinevawr, in Caermarthenshire; and a third in the custody of the Doctors of Law.

Anglesey. For she had the name of her family, and the crown of Scotland, as descended from *Walter Steward*, who was born at Aberffraw; the crown of England, in right of the lady *Margaret Tudur*, paternally descended from *Owen Tudur*, of Penmynydd in Anglesey; and she inherited the principality of Wales from *Gwladus Ddu*, only surviving daughter and heir of *Llewelyn ap Jerwerth*, prince of Wales, born and bred in Anglesey, who was married to Sir *Ralph Mortimer*; by which marriage the inheritance of the principality of Wales; in right of blood, came to the house and family of York, and by them to the crown, where it now happily rests."*

Near this place have been frequently found the amulets called *gleiniau nadroedd*, or snake gems, supposed to have been manufactured by the Romans, and given to the superstitious Britons in exchange for their exports.†

It is commonly believed among the vulgar, that about Midsummer snakes congregate, when joining their heads together, and giving a conjoint hiss, a kind of bubble is formed in the head of one of them; which the other, then resuming his hissing, blows forward till it comes off at the tail. This after it has become hard by exposure to the weather, resembles a glass ring, which, whoever has the good luck to find, will prosper in all their future undertakings.

The above account, still strong in Welsh tradition, was given by Pliny centuries ago in his Natural History, which need not be repeated in his own language; a spirited poetic translation having been given by a late ingenious poet.

"But tell me yet
From the grot of charms and spells,
Where our matron sister dwells,

Brennius

* Mona Antiqua, p. 175.

† These, made of glass, are of a rich blue colour, some streaked, and others plain. They are now used to cure a cough, the ague, or assist children in cutting their teeth.

Brennus, has thy holy hand
Safely brought the Druid wand,
And the potent *Adder-stone*,
Gendered 'fore the autumnal moon;
When in undulating twine,
The foaming snakes prolific join;
When they hiss, and when they bear
Their won'drous egg aloof in air;
Thence before to earth it fall,
The Druid in his hallow'd hall,
Receives the prize,
And instant flies,
Follow'd by the envenom'd brood
'Till he cross the crystal flood.*

In this vicinity also is the small lake of *Llyn Coron*, about two miles in circumference, abounding with several kinds of fish, particularly trout, and *Gwyniad*; which induces numbers to frequent it in the summer season, for the amusement of angling.

In the church of LLANGADWALADER, said to have been founded by Cadwallader, last king of the Britons, who appointed it one of the sanctuaries for the island, the stone, mentioned by Rowlands, still remains, forming the lintel of the southern entrance doorway; and has the inscribed face downwards. This, combined with the obliterations of time, has rendered it difficult to decipher; and antiquaries have consequently differed as to the import of its meaning. The above author says it is to be read thus,

CATAMANUS REX SAPIENTISSIMUS OPINATISSIMUS OMNIUM REGUM.

* This inscription he supposes to have been commemorative of *Catamanus* or *Cadfan*, the grandfather of the founder, who was

* Mason's Caractacus.

† A fac simile is given on plate IX of the Mona Antiqua Restorata, and below it a corrected one by the Editor. Having lately examined them both, the latter is evidently the least inaccurate.

was interred here, and not, as generally stated, in the island of Bardsey.

EPITAPH.

In obitum *Owini Woode* armigeri, qui obuit 6. die *April* Ao, Dni, 1602. Ætat suæ 76.

Fælix ter fælix, marmor quia nobile lignum
Quo caret infælix insula, marmor, habës,
Owen *et patria vivens fuit utile* lignum.
Et lignum *vitæ post sua fata Deo.*
Filius ista meo posui monumenta parenti
Sit precor ut tecum nomen ita Omen idem.
1602.

BODORGAN is the handsome residence of *Owen Putland Meyric, Esq.* The house situated on an eminence, clothed with wood, in a small park, well supplied with deer, is an elegant modern structure, consisting of a centre, and two wings; erected after the design of Mr. Defferd, an architect who has evinced in this, and several others of his plans, a very considerable portion of genuine taste.

LLANGRISTIOLIS, the birth place of DR. HENRY MAURICE, will ever be remembered by the lovers of literature. His father was curate of the parish, and Henry, after receiving a scholastic education at Beaumaris; was, by the liberal conduct of Sir Leoline Jenkins, principal of Jesus College Oxford, admitted in the year 1664, at the age of sixteen, servitor of that learned seminary. His extraordinary genius was soon discovered, by that sagacious observer of men and manners. He was elected a scholar upon the foundation, and on the next vacancy advanced to the fellowship. On Sir Leoline Jenkins being sent ambassador to Cologne, Mr. Maurice attended him on the embassy; and became his particular friend and associate, during the time of his useful services at different foreign courts. On his return, after a very long and arduous residence, in which Mr. Maurice had eminently distinguished himself, adorned the profession he had chosen, and made the church of England, as by law

established, respected abroad; he was patronised by Dr. Lloyd, successively bishop of St. Asaph, Litchfield, and Worcester, on whose recommendation Archbishop Sandcroft, of pious memory, appointed him one of his domestic chaplains. Here he obtained leisure for writing, and had a fine opportunity for displaying his polemical abilities. *David Clarkson*, a nonconformist divine, about this time had published a treatise, intitled "No evidence for Diocesan Episcopacy in the Primitive times," which Mr. Maurice completely refuted. In this controversy a most curious charge was made by Mr. Maurice, respecting his literary antagonist, which applies with peculiar strength to similar discussions in the present day. That he had often "to complain of the fatigue he underwent, in writing his answers to Clarkson," who for the sake of demurrer would convert villages into towns, and vice versa; particularly respecting episcopal seats, or jurisdictions. In 1691 Dr. Maurice, having been preferred to the rectory of Newington, was elected Margaret professor of divinity in Oxford; and soon after taking possession of the annexed prebend in Worcester cathedral, suffering severely from the contention of enviable competitors, he fell a martyr to disease, arising from the consequent spleen.

Malldraeth or *Malltraeth**, an arm of the sea, flowing far up into land, constitutes a very curious geological phenomenon. The direction is south-west, to north-east, extending from Llanddwyn point to Llangefni bridge; a distance of about fifteen miles. It is flanked by two ranges of limestone rock, which run in the same line of bearing, either separate, or coalescing to Red-wharf bay, on the opposite side of the Island. This grand opening, Mr. Rowland's supposes, was formed at the deluge, by the immense portion of land-locked water, that lay in a widely expanded bottom on the north east side of the island; which forcing

* The appellation of this estuary has been supposed derived from *Malt* and *traeth*, that is, the evil or dangerous sand: a name sufficiently appropriate from the hazards of passing at certain states of tide; but perhaps it may be more consistent with the genius of the language, and the nature of the substances, which compose the traeth, to refer it to *mall*, soft, or yielding; as fully expressive of the general character of these sands.

forcing its passage through a rocky ridge, by the impetuous power of the element, formed one of those vents, called *nantydd*; and the pass above Llangefni obtains to the present time, the name of "*Carreg y forwyllt*, or the eruptive rock." What this learned author observes, respecting the pressure of the waters, carrying down by their specific gravity the soil, previously loosened by their reverberating violence, is evidently manifest in the actual state of this tract of country. Opposed to the sands, thrown up with the influent tide, the alluvial matter intermixes, and forms a mass of various soils in the numerous depressions; consisting in some places of fine meadow land occasionally overflowed; in others of rushy moors, and broken turbaries.

These circumstances of the different nature of the soil, and the occasional recession of the recoiling waters, induced persons, at an early period, to form a plan of regaining from the Proteus like visitor, some of the lands thus apparently unjustly, or wantonly seized. An *embankment* was formed across the Traeth, by which a vast quantity of very fine land was drained, and secured from the depredations of the sea. The benefits of this having been for centuries lost, a new work was undertaken and completed; but owing to some very culpable neglect, what might have stood centuries, was suffered to decay for want of the requisite repairs*. The sea made its way through several places, the waters rushed over the beautifully verdant and luxuriant meads, and the disrupted banks still exhibit a melancholy and striking instance of what energy or indolence effect towards ameliorating, or deteriorating the state of a country. Here however let the writer proudly turn to the rising, and he trusts, persevering spirit lately displayed on this, as well as several other occasions, in this naturally productive county. A scheme has been some time in contemplation, and is now about to be carried into execution, for erecting another embankment

* This was carried across the Traeth, a little below the village of Trefdraeth, and was about a mile and a half in length.

upon a more enlarged scale, and durable plan*; which when accomplished, will form a most advantageous communication between the different parts of the island, by the new road intended to be carried across the embankment, exclusive of the quantity of valuable lands, which by this work will be recovered and drained. But this long useless, at least, unaccommodating tract, has still more valuable attractive claims upon the landholders, and those interested by local ties, respecting its intrinsic value. The line of depression between the limestone boundaries of this Traeth, and with great probability in the same bearing to Traeth coch, abounds with strata of *coal*: the veins, as far as the miners, observations have gone, are thick, the beds extensive, and the coals of a most excellent quality. A few years since shafts were sunk in the vicinity of Tref-draeth; but from some of those common fatalities, which ever attend large concerns, not conducted by science, nor supported by spirit, the promising work apparently failed; and was imprudently abandoned in despair. But failure, in some instances, produces competition in others. A new trial, under the auspices of the earl of Uxbridge, Mr. Meyric, and others, has met with the wished-for success. Coals have been raised, the obstructions from water are removed by a powerful steam engine; the united endeavours of the proprietors augur much gain to themselves, and manifold advantages to the island. The new works are at *Pentre Berew*, about five miles north easterly of the old, and these two points manifestly indicate the line, for further researches in quest of this invaluable fossil. Of what importance the opening of sufficient coalieries for the supplying the country with fuel, would be, may be deduced from two very serious facts; the second of which results from the first. The enormous high price†, coals bring in the island in a great measure operates

* A meeting was lately held at Llangefni, for taking into consideration, the propriety and immediate expediency of such an undertaking.

† Anglesea is furnished with this necessary article from the coal-works in Lancashire. Coals, at Liverpool, sell for twelve and thirteen shillings per ton.

operates as a prohibition of their use, among the inferior classes of the inhabitants. These are, therefore, under the hard necessity of spending a portion of their time, in going in quest of fuel. Peat and turf, after digging, drying, carrying, housing, &c. are far from being cheap articles; and all cannot obtain a sufficient quantity of those kinds of firing. Their wants therefore must be supplied, by collecting sticks, wood, gorse, fern, and other combustible substances, in consequence of which, the hedges have been destroyed, quick fences prevented from attaining their desired growth, and the lands left in that open, or defenceless state in which they appear through many parts of the county. Thus agriculture, and the whole system of rural economy materially suffers: the sinews of the island, a highly productive husbandry, are constantly weakened; and a district, which from the natural richness of the soil; and other advantageous circumstances, might assume the luxuriance of paradise, wears in numerous instances the garb of sterility, of derelict lands, and a deserted country. The obstacles it presents to the introduction of various manufactures in diverse operations of which, coals are essentially requisite, is, though a secondary, not an unimportant consideration. For the connection between agriculture and trade is so intimate, and the reciprocal advantages so great, that their approximation is in all cases, but especially in insular situations, a most desirable object. Nor should it be omitted, since Anglesea has opened her subterraneous treasures, that even in this point of view, the obtaining coals at a moderate price, must be, as it long has been, a grand desideratum: particularly to the holders of mineral property. Even while the exuberant mines in the mountainous ridge of Trysclwyn were in full work, by far the greater part of the ore was necessarily shipped to other places, productive of coal; for the purposes of smelting and refining: and to this

,on. But after the expence of freightage by sea, land carriage, and the import duty are added, the price is enhanced to the distressing sum of two pounds!!

circumstance, among some few others, may perhaps be attributed the present languishing state of the concern, and the little prospect of its being in a more flourishing condition.

NEWBOROUGH.

Across the Malldraeth estuary, the sands of which are fordable at low water, about three miles from the sea shore stands this small insignificant place in the scale of towns. Owing to the difficult pass over the Traeth, it is seldom visited, but by travellers, whose object is something, surpassing common amusement. Yet whoever passes Bodorgan, and has previously made his exploratory inquiries respecting Aberfraw, will be inclined to pay some small attention to Newborough, so intimately connected in its history with the former village. The British name was *Rhos-vair*, and here was a Llys or royal palace of the Northwallian princes, who appear occasionally, as safety or prudence dictated in those troublous times, to have taken up their residence at this, or the other palace north of the Traeth. Originally a seat of justice for the comot of Menai, it continued to be so, long subsequent to its having been subjected to the crown of England. Edward the first, annexed it to the royalties of the prince of Wales, erected the town into a corporation*; granted a gild and mercate, with other privileges; which were confirmed by a parliament, held in the reign of Edward the third. It had the honour of sending a representative to the British senate in the third year of Henry the eighth, and again in the first year of Edward the sixth, who, in the following year transferred the elective franchise to Beaumaris. By virtue of its ancient charter, Newborough is still governed by a mayor, recorder, and two bailiffs, with other assistant officers; but the pristine glory of the place is now no more, and its weekly market, formerly held on Saturdays, is discontinued.

By

* Hence it received the English name of *New-borough*.

By the census taken in 1801, the number of houses was 176, and the population amounted to 599 persons. Some of these are employed in the manufacturing of matting, nets, and cordage, which latter, from its being composed of a species of sea-reed grass, are called *rhoisir-morheng* ropes; * others in the labours of husbandry, and a few in fishing.

In the vicinity of what has been considered the domestic chapel to the royal palace, is an upright stone, bearing a commemorative inscription, thus read by Mr. Rowlands.

"Cur ..... Filius Curricini Erexit Hunc Lapidem."

The author of the History of Anglesea reads it differently,

"Filius Ulrici Erexit Hunc Lapidem."

It is supposed to have been set up for some Danish chieftain, who fell in battle here. This is probable, as the Danes were used much to infest this part of the coast: and similar sepulchral monuments are frequently found in Scandinavia.

Newborough, it is observed by the Hon. Daines Barrington,† was celebrated in Wales, for being the residence and birth-place of John Morgan, an old blind musician, who was among the last that understood playing upon the ancient instrument called the *Crwth*, whence the modern violin and violencello were probably derived. A man by the name of Williams also, about the same time was both a performer on these curious in-

* "A plant," Mr. Pennant observes, "of which, Queen Elizabeth, in tenderness to such of her subjects, who lived on sandy shores, wisely prohibited the extirpation, in order to prevent the misfortunes, which have since happened, of having half the parish buried in the unstable sands, by the rage of tempests." "Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 5.

See also the dire effects of these fleeting sands in Cordiner's Letters on the Ruins and Prospects of North Britain.

† Archæologia, Vol. III. p. 38.

struments, and also a manufacturer of them. He was by trade a barber, and resident at Holyhead. But both these Crwderos' are dead, the crwth is intirely disregarded, the enthusiastic attention once paid to its full vibrating strings is no more; and the remembrance, auricularly, like the sounds of dying music at a distance.

Llanddwyn, the frontier parish to Newborough, towards the sea, forms a kind of peninsula, the whole of which is covered with *meals*, or sand hills. The driftings from these, during the prevalence of strong westerly winds, fleeting over the adjacent lands, form a sad annoyance to the vicinity. Amidst a sandy flat, surrounded by rocks, near the shore, was an oratory of St. *Dwynwen*, the daughter of Brychan Urth, a holy man, who lived in the fifth century. As the British *Venus*, or tutelary saint of lovers, her votaries were very numerous. A church having been built on the spot, a shrine erected to her memory, was attended by multitudes of devotees in the ages of superstition; and the religious, who, from this circumstance, were induced to take up their recluse residence here, made no small gains from the pious ignorance of the people. The patroness of amatorial connections was profusely supplied with votive offerings, by sighing nymphs, and rejected swains, to secure her interference and good offices, in softening the, otherwise, obdurate hearts of the desired objects. The bard of *Bro ginin* thus beautifully addresses the sea-born goddess, "Dwynwen, fair as the hoary tears of morning, thy golden image in its choir, illumined with waxen torches, well knows how to heal the pains of yonder cross-grained mortals. A wight that watches within thy choir, blest is his happy labour, thou splendid beauty! with afflictions or with tortured mind shall none return from Llanddwyn."*

Here subsequently is said to have been an abbey, founded for Benedictine monks, but it probably was only a cell, of a very

* Works of Davydd ap Gwilym, printed in London, 1789, by Owen Jones and William Owen.

very small chapter of canons; for it appears, by an inquisition made in the time of Edward the Third, there were on this tract of land only eight small houses, or, as they were, then denominated, *weles*.* The religious, however, were amply supplied by the oblations received from the pilgrims, who resorted to this place to pay their devoirs to reliques; and to practise an heathen custom, for diving into futurity, called ἰχθυομαντια, or divination by fishes. And so wealthy was the treasury belonging to the shrine of Dwynwen, in the time of Owen Glyndwr, that it became a subject of a very serious depredatory quarrel. According to the visitation, made in the reign of Henry the eighth, the revenues constituted one of the richest prebends belonging to the cathedral of Bangor.

This part of the coast, from the several narrow sandy coves between the rocks, calculated to run in small vessels unobserved by revenue officers, was formerly much the resort of smugglers; but the commercial regulations, lately adopted by government, have nearly stopped this illicit trade.

Abermenai Ferry lies almost opposite to Caernarvon bar, where is a very narrrow and difficult entrance into the port of Caernarvon. Inside the bar, the straits are two miles over, but the sands render navigation almost as dangerous within, as without. This is one of the five ferries, sanctioned by authority, between the island and the mainland. These, after the subduction of Wales to the king of England, became the property of the Crown, till the time when Henry the eighth made a grant of them to Richard Giffard, one of the sewers of his chambers, who, in the thirty-third year of that monarch's reign, let them on a term to Wm. Bulkeley. This only remains in the family, the rest having been transferred to other hands. Though these appear to have been well chosen according to the nature of the straits, yet from sand banks, opposing tides, issuing out of two seas, and other contingent circumstances, the passage across either, cannot be considered, what with propriety may be called *safe*. Serious accidents have occurred at each, and more perhaps than have

* Rowlands's MSS.

have been generally promulgated. But one, which happened at this, in the month of December, 1785, when the passage boat was lost and all the passengers, fifty-five in number, perished, except one, *Mr. Hugh Williams*, lately living at, or near Aberffraw; affords a truly affecting and melancholy tale of woe, that must be interesting to every sympathetic bosom. The unaffected narrative of the melancholy event was received from Mr. Williams himself, and his story is too impressive and too simple to be related in any other than nearly his own words

"The Abermenai ferry-boat usually leaves Caernarvon on the return of the tide, but the 5th of December, being the fair-day, and there being much difficulty on that account, in collecting the passengers, the boat did not leave Caernarvon that evening till near four o'clock, though it was low water at five; and the wind, which blew strong from the south-east, was right upon our larboard bow. It was necessary that the boat should be kept in, pretty close to the Caernarvonshire side; not only that we might have the benefit of the channel, which was near the shore, but also that we might be sheltered from this wind which blew directly towards two sand-banks, at that time divided by a channel, called Traethau Gwylltion, The Shifting Sands.——

"These lay somewhat more than half way betwixt the Caernarvonshire and the Anglesea coasts. It was not long before I perceived that the boat was not kept sufficiently in the channel, and I immediately communicated to a friend * my apprehensions that we were approaching too near the bank. He agreed in my opinion, and we accordingly requested the ferry-men to use their best efforts to keep her off. Every possible exertion was made to this purpose with the oars, for we had no sail, but without effect, for we soon after grounded upon the bank; and the wind blew at this time so fresh, as at intervals to throw the spray entirely over us.

"Alarmed at our situation, as it was nearly low water, and as there was every prospect, without the utmost exertion, of being

* Thomas Coledock, gardener to O. P. Meyrick, Esq. of Bodorgan.

being left on the bank, some of the tallest and strongest of the passengers immediately leapt into the water, and with their joint force, endeavoured to thrust the boat off. This, however, was to no purpose, for every time they moved her from the spot, she was with violence driven back. In this distressing situation, the boat half filled with water, and a heavy sea breaking over us, we thought it best to quit her, and remain on the bank in hopes, before the rising again of the tide, that we should receive some assistance from Caernarvon. We accordingly did so, and almost the moment after we had quitted her, she filled with water, and swamped. Before I left her I had, however, the precaution to secure the mast, on which, in case of necessity, I was resolved to attempt my escape: this I carried to a part of the bank nearest to the Anglesea shore, where I observed my friend with one of the oars, which he had secured for a similar purpose.

"We were, at this time, including men, women, and children, fifty-five in number, in a situation that can much better be conceived than described. Exposed on a quick-sand, in a dark cold night, to all the horrors of a premature death; which, without assistance from Caernarvon, we knew must be certain on the return of the tide, our only remaining hope was, that we could make our distress known there. We accordingly united our voices in repeated cries for assistance, and we were heard. The alarm bell was rung, and, tempestuous as the night was, several boats, amongst which was that belonging to the custom-house, put off to our assistance. We now entertained hopes that we should shortly be rescued from the impending danger; but how were we sunk in despair when we found that not one of them, on discovering our situation, dared to approach us, lest a similar fate should also involve them. A sloop from Barmouth, lying at Porth Leidiog, had likewise slipt her cable to drop down to our assistance, the only effectual relief we could have received; but before she floated, the scene, was closed.

"Finding that our danger was now every moment increasing, and no hopes of help whatever could be entertained, I determined

mined to continue no longer on the bank, but to trust myself to the mercy of the sea. Being a tolerably good swimmer, I had full confidence, that with the mast, I should be able to gain the Anglesea shore. I accordingly went to the spot where I had deposited it, and found my friend there, with the oar in his hand. I proposed to him that we should tie the mast and oar together with two straw ropes, which he also had along with him, and endeavoured to persuade him to trust ourselves upon them. I fastened them together as securely as possible, and finding, after repeated endeavours to prevail on him to accompany me, that he had not fortitude enough to do it, I was determined to make the effort alone. I pulled off my boots and great coat, as likely to impede me in swimming: he committed his watch to my care, and we took a last farewell. I pushed the raft a little off the bank, and placed myself upon it, but at that moment it turned round, and threw me underneath. In this position, with one of my arms slung through the rope, and exerting all my endeavours to keep my head above water, overwhelmed at intervals with the spray, which was blown over me with great violence, I was carried entirely off the bank. When I had been in the water, as near as I could recollect, about an hour, I perceived, at a considerable distance, a light. This I believed to be (as it afterwards proved) in Tal y Voel ferry-house: my drooping spirits were revived, and I made every exertion to gain the shore, by pushing the raft towards it, at the same time calling out loudly for help. But judge of my disappointment, when, in spite of every effort, I was carried past the light, and found myself driving on rapidly before the wind and tide, deprived now of every hope of relief. Dreadful as my situation was, I had, however, still strength enough to persevere in my endeavours to gain the shore. These, after being for some time beaten about by the surge, which several times carried me back into the water, were at length effectual. After having been upwards of two hours tossed about by the sea, in a cold and tempestuous night, supported only by clinging hold of the mast, and oar of a small boat, I was thus providentially

retrieved

retrieved from, otherwise, inevitable death. I now felt the dreadful effect of the cold I had endured, for, on endeavouring to rise, that I might seek further assistance, my limbs refused their office Exerting myself to the utmost, I endeavoured to crawl towards the place where I had seen the light, distant at least a mile from me, but at last was obliged to desist, and lie down under a hedge, till my strength was somewhat recovered. The wind and rain soon roused me, and after repeated struggles, and the most painful efforts, I at length reached the Tal y Voel ferry-house. I was at first seen by a female of the family, who immediately ran screaming away, under the idea that she had encountered a ghost. The family, however, by this means were roused, and I was taken into the house. They put me into a warm bed, gave me some brandy, and applied heated bricks to my extremities: this treatment had so good an effect, that, on the following morning no other unpleasant sensation was left than that of extreme debility. Having been married but a very short time, I determined to be the welcome messenger to my wife of my own deliverance. I therefore hastened home as early as possible, and had the good fortune to find, that the news of the melancholy event had not before reached my dwelling.

"This morning presented a spectacle along the shore which I cannot attempt to describe. Several of the bodies had been cast up during the night. The friends of the sufferers crowded the banks, and the agitated enquiries of the relatives after those whose fate was doubtful or unknown, and the affliction of the friends of those already discovered, to this day fill me with horror in the recollection. I, alas, was the only surviving witness of the melancholy event. Besides those bodies thrown upon the shore by the tide, so many were found in various positions, sunk in the sand bank, that it was not till after several tides, that they could all be dug out. My boots and great coat were found under the sand, nearly in the place where I had left them. The boat was never seen afterwards, and it is supposed to be even yet lodged in the bank."

Tal y foel, or the bald head-land, one of the principal ferries

so denominated from the coast, being loftier here, than in the vicinity, and one abrupt rock, devoid of verdure, presenting itself as you approach the shore. It has been stated, the "Menai, somewhere off this place, was the scene of a sea-fight about the middle of the 12th century, that has been celebrated in Welsh verse by a bard of the name of Gwalchmai."* And that it was the battle alluded to by Gray, in his Praise of Owen a fragment. But there are reasons to suppose, the conflict, which forms the subject of the poem, partook more of a military than a naval character; and that the principal site, was where it has already been placed, on the north eastern coasts of the island.† First it is not likely in the time of Henry the second, that a king of North Wales should be possessed of a powerful fleet, sufficient to contend with the combined squadrons of Erse, Manks, and Normans; besides little is mentioned in the records of that period, respecting maritime warfare between the English and the Welsh. And it is obvious to remark in perusing their annals, that among other causes of national decay, there was one, which, though not inherent in their own government, had been a striking defect in their ancestors, the Britons; and with a single exception ‡ continued to mark the policy of their princes, till the period in question; and that was; a total inattention to their naval power; although its utility was apparent from their maritime situation; and its expediency pointed out in the examples of surrounding enemies; who by a superiority at sea, were enabled to transport their armies rapidly from place to place, harass the coasts, and wage, with impunity, a depredatory and vexatious warfare. Owen Gwynedd began to see the necessity of adopting this essential mode of defending a sea-bound country, but his means were far from being adequate

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 287.

† The Beauties, Vol. XVII. p. 211.

‡ Gryffyd ap Llewellyn, Lord Lyttleton observes, paid some attention to naval concerns, and increased his maritime power by procuring from a foreign country, a few ships of war, manned with foreign sailors, for the purpose of importing corn, and protecting the coast. Life of Henry II.

quate to the supplies requisite to carry such a plan into execution. And little is heard respecting a navy in his reign.

It is true the original poem mentions, by one of those strong hyperboles, admissible only by poetic licence, the Menai, as not being in a state of ebb, during the battle, from the vast profusion of human gore; yet he also says, there was sufficient slaughter to glut the hungry *kites*: an intimation, that much of the conflict took place on land, as kites are not piscatory birds. Another bard describing the event, mentions the defeat of *three hundred ships of war*. Now nearly an equal number must have composed the victorious fleet, and how could so many ride in manœuvring positions on the part of the Menai, near Tal y voel; crowded as the channel is, with sand banks, dry at low water? The ships in question were doubtless transports, and as they are described sailing in three divisions, they might have made a descent in three different parts of the island, and then combined their forces.

Allowing, therefore, the authority of this document, it affords no conclusive proof, that the sanguinary conflict was not decided on *land*. Respecting the identical spot, little further than traditionary evidence can be adduced. The name of the one, assigned for it on such grounds, furnishes us no assistance, as it simply means a *morassy plain, where warfare was waged, or a battle fought*. Its adjacency, however, to Traeth coch or Rhedwarf bay, gives to the supposition additional probability. This part of the coast was the most vulnerable from natural circumstances, it is more sheltered than other parts of the island; and the low flat sandy shores afforded great facilities to an invading enemy to strand his vessels and disembark his troops. A corroborative circumstance, also is, that the Danes, the Manks, the Irish, and other marauders, who used to disturb and plunder Anglesea, generally made their principal landing somewhere in this vicinity.

After all, Gwalchmai appears to have combined in his poem several great battles, fought by Owen Gwynedd, and described them as one event. "Three legions the vessels of the torrent

brought, three grand and first of fleets, bent on quick assault. One from the west green isle; another teeming with armed ones of the men of Llochlin, long burdens of the flood; the third over the sea from Normandy with mighty bustle came, and unpropitious fate." The first evidently alludes to a defeat of an army of Irish invaders; the second to an incursion of an hostile party of Manks, and the third to a desperate attempt made by the English in the time of Henry the second, to subjugate the island. But it is, and must be matter of conjecture: and sagacious conjecture, founded on probable evidence, resulting from the combination of the few facts, of which we have certain knowledge, can alone be expected, where an interval of many centuries, obstructs our enquiries. On a disputed point of so much importance in an historic point of view, it would be presumptuous on the very scanty, and these poetic, documents, peremptorily to decide. The reader will make his own election, and permission is given him so to do. " Utrum horum mavis accipe."

LLANIDAN, the patron saint of whose church was St. *Idan* or *Aidan**, once belonged to the convent of Beddgelert in Caernarvonshire, and is visited for two curiosities, one, what has been termed " a *reliquary*," or rather a sepulchral vase, consisting of a vessel, formed out of common gritstone, and having a roof-shaped lid, or cover. This is supposed by some to have been the depository of a part of Idan's remains, or of reliques formerly belonging to the church. But it more probably was an ancient baptismal *font*, and the rudeness of the shape bespeaks its high antiquity. The other is the stone, previously mentioned†, as noticed by Giraldus, called *Maen Morddwyd*, now included within the church wall.

PLAS

* This is one, amidst the multiplicity of British saints, whose pedigree Mr. Owen could not trace. Quære, was it not the pious Aiden, for *saint* was in that age a term equipollent with the epithet *pious* in this, whose character the venerable Bede so highly extols, in his life of St. Cuthbert: and from whose remains the church of Durham is said to have obtained possession of the head, teeth, appendant cross, and two griffin's eggs?

† Beauties, Vol. XVII p. 151.

PLAS LLANIDAN, a seat formerly belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Boston, is not peculiarly striking, as an architectural structure; but is finely situated on a rising wooded ground above the Menai, over which it has a commanding view to Caernarvon, and the mountainous range of Snowdon. This is at present the residence of *Owen Williams, Esq.*, one of the representatives in parliament for the borough of Great Marlow in the county of Bucks.

LLANIDAN, though not the original family seat of the *Williams's*, has been distinguished for having been the residence of a man, who from an obscure situation by dint of superior abilities, and indefatigable application to business, raised himself, not only to a distinguished situation, but an honourable station in society. The late Mr. THOMAS WILLIAMS, was born in Anglesea. The limits of this work will not allow going into a detail of his birth, and education. After having been the accustomed time with an attorney at Beaumaris, he practised the law, in which he distinguished himself for some years by his legal acumen and general activity; particularly in the management of electioneering business. This introduced him to an acquaintance with several noble and distinguished characters, and by their patronage he obtained the lucrative situation of manager to the Parys-mountain mines; the joint property of Lord Uxbridge, and the Rev. Mr. Hughes: and subsequently was admitted to a considerable partnership concern, with the latter proprietor. To that event, perhaps in a great degree, maybe attributed the success of a concern, which had proved an unfortunate speculation to theformer lessees. In a very few years after Mr. Williams had undertaken the management, the quantity of copper raised, amounted to about four thousand tons per annum. For the disposal of this immense mineral treasure, a number of subordinate companies of smelters, refiners, and manufacturers, were formed at Holywell, Swansea, Ravenhead, Birmingham, Marlow, and Wraysbury; at the same time warehouses, for the sale of copper, were opened at Liverpool, Bristol, and London. These concerns

formed together a business of unusual magnitude, comprising a variety of heterogeneous interests, involving a fluctuating property of, at least, a million sterling; upon the realization of which, numbers of opulent men were seriously implicated, and thousands depended for their daily subsistence. Over these Mr. Williams presided, was sole director; and perhaps in such a complicated, and responsible concern, where one person had the exclusive direction; never was an equally arduous duty, so ably and judiciously performed. But trade, like ambition, brooks no rival; when, confined to a few hands, it stretches its gigantic strides over the commercial globe, and prefers its claim to universal monopoly. The immense produce of Parys mountain exceeded the whole aggregate quantity of all the other copper mines in the kingdom; which made such an impression on the markets, that for several years, a contest was carried on between Mr. W. and the Cornish miners, that had nearly proved fatal to the mining interest of the West of England. The Island companies were able considerably to under sell the Cornish. For though the ores of Anglesea were much poorer, that is, less productive in metal, than those of Cornwall; yet, lying nearer the surface, they were raised at a much smaller expence. A serious competition now ensued; which should be excluded the benefit of a market! This terminated in a coalition between the contending parties, highly advantageous to both, but detrimental to the general interests of those manufactures, where copper formed an essential requisite: particularly in those multifarious branches of metalline articles, which constituted the principal trade of a place, emphatically styled, the "Toy shop of Europe." This occasioned an application to Parliament, in behalf of Birmingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, and other towns, affected by the dangerous combination. *The copper bill* was accordingly brought in, for regulating the importation and exportation, and read a first time. Mean while a committee had been appointed to examine into the state of the petitioning trade. One of the members, on the order of the day, being moved by Lord Hawkes-

bury, for the second reading of the bill, observed, "he was convinced, the manufacturers required the protection of the Legislature." Upon the same occasion also, Mr. Pitt strongly animadverted on the dangerous tendency of such a monopoly, as the bill was intended to prevent. For he said, "notwithstanding the previous attention of parliament to the subject, copper had advanced from the enormous price of 113l. per ton in the ore, which was the average price of the last six months, stated in evidence to the committee, to the still more enormous price of 128l. per ton, as appeared by a ticketing paper he had seen this morning: and that there could be no pretence set up, to justify this rise, from any advance in the price of materials, or labour, during that period. An honourable gentlemen had said, that the rise was owing to a fair competition in the market; but he had reason to understand, that nearly the whole command of the article had got into *one hand*; and that notwithstanding there was an appearance of *public* bidding, that one company, in which an *honourable member of that house* was largely concerned, had lately purchased the greatest part of the ores; and that a species of monopoly appeared to exist, which it was his determination to resist—and to put the *copper trade*, so essential to our marine, and to our manufactures, on the footing of the corn and other trades, which had been regulated by Parliament." From the report however of a committee, appointed to examine into the state of the copper trade, it appeared, that the mining business at the then standard was at a low ebb, that some concerns yielded no profit, and that on the mine, called, *North Downs*, there has been an actual loss. The Cornish, Anglesea, and other interests united to oppose the measure, and the bill was lost for that sessions.

Not obtaining from the wisdom of parliament the wished for redress, a number of spirited individuals associated together, under the firm of the "Birmingham copper mining company," who purchased mines in Cornwall, and erected smelting houses in the vicinage of Swansea, Southwales, and were thus enabled to supply the demands of the manufacturers, at moderate and

regulated prices. This bold adventure succeeding, quashed the monopoly; the partnership between the two concerns was dissolved; the price of copper found its proper level in the market; and to the Anglesea proprietors the subsequent acquisitions have since been proportional to the wisdom and energy displayed in their measures. By natural endowments, and constitutional habits, Mr. W. was well qualified for conducting large and intricate concerns. Indefatigable in his attention to business, penetrating in his judgment, pertinacious in his views, and decisive in his measures, he lost little time, balancing different opinions, as to their eligibility; and still less in carrying them into effect. His promptitude in all the plans he adopted, was only equalled, by the discernment, which he discovered in the choice of characters adapted for their execution. His unremitting labours were most amply rewarded; for, it is said, he had accumulated an immense sum, leaving behind him a most splendid fortune, amounting to nearly half a million sterling. Mr. W's. landed possessions were considerable, and he had no less than five country seats—One at Temple, one at Horton, one at Wraysbury, one at Marl, and another at Llanidan. For an asthmatic complaint, with which he had been long afflicted, he was persuaded to retire from his arduous avocations, and to take the benefit of the Bath waters: he resided a short time in Bath, where he died Nov. 30, 1801, at the age of 66. He was interred at Llanidan with those demonstrations of respect from his friends, which were justly due to the memory of a person, by whose genius and activity some had been enriched, and all had been benefitted.

Porthamel, or Porth-amwyll, the gloomy ferry, so called from the dense woods, which anciently darkened the shore, is famous for being the place where Suetonius landed, when he finally extinguished Druidical domination. The infantry were landed by means of flat-bottomed vessels, near *Pwll y ffuwch*, where a low place on the beach retains to the present time the denomination of *Pant yr yscraphie*, or the boat-hollow: the Romans calling the boats, by which they put their soldiers on shore,

shore, *scaphæ*;* whence the Welsh yscraphie is evidently derived. The horse followed below, at the *ford*, having been taught by some British auxiliaries, to swim it, according to the custom of the country.† A tumulus in an adjacent field, Mr. Rowlands supposed, was the holocaustic place, where the terrified Druids took up firebrands, and brandished them, like so many furies, about the exterminating army; and where the infatuated multitude were committed to the devouring flames in their own sacrificial fires. On the top of *Gwydryn* hill is a fortified post, called *Caer Idris*, of a semi-circular shape, guarded by a triple foss and vallum, with each end terminating in a precipice. From the name and figure, it was, an original British post, and on this occasion probably occupied by the Romans.

LLANEDWEN is notable as having given birth to the able learned antiquary, and divine, the REV. HENRY ROWLANDS, who was born in the year 1655, at *Plus gwyn* in this parish, an estate, purchased by his ancestor Henry Rowlands, who died bishop of Bangor, A. D. 1616; and still remains the patrimony of the family. He was bred at Oxford, took orders, and was instituted to the vicarage of Llanidan with the annexed chapels, in October 1690; died in the year 1723, and interred in the south part of this church. A black marble slab erected to his memory, contains the following modest and pious inscription, evidently composed by himself for the purpose.

"M. S.
Depositum
HENRICI ROWLANDS
de Plâs Gwyn, Clerici,
Hujus Ecclesiæ *Vicarii*;
Qui hinc cum hisce Exuviis,
Per spiritum Jesu,
Animam interea refocillantem,
in

* Hence the English term, *skiff*, for a small boat, or one that draws but little water.

† "Quibus nota vada et patrius nandi usus."
TACITUS.

in ultima die
se fore resuscitatum
Pia fide sperabat:
Ac inde
TRIUMPHANTE MISERICORDIA
In eternum cum Christo gaudium.
Fore susceptum,
Quod maxime anhelabat;
id est
Esse semper cum Domino.
Obiit 21 die Novembris
Anno Salutis 1773
Ætatis suæ 63
Spiritus ubi vult spirat.
Laus tota Tri-Uni

Omnia pro nihilo nisi quæ tribuebat egenis,
Ista valent cum artes pereant & scripta fatiscant."

His principal work, exclusive of some unpublished manuscripts, is the "*Mona Antiqua Restorata*, or an archæological discourse on the Antiquities, natural and historical, of the Isle of Anglesea." Though in this treatise he has been charged with being partial to a favourite system, of too much locality in his views, of pseudo-criticism, and fanciful etymology*; yet his illustrative account of the antiquities of this part of the island, is a most extraordinary performance: more especially, when it is considered, that he never enjoyed any further literary advantages, than what perhaps were derived from the confined limits of his native isle.

Moel y don, or the hill of the wave, is one of the usual ferries over the Menai; and the one by which the invading Roman forces under Agricola entered the island, and where the army of Edward the first, in the year 1282, met with a signal defeat. The disaster is said by the Welsh historian, to have happened in this manner. The king having landed his men on the Anglesea shore, and reduced some of the inhabitants to obedience, who had neglected, or refused, to take the oath of fealty to the crown

* Cambrian Register for 1795, p. 381.

crown of England, built a bridge of boats, across the Menai, near this spot; in order to keep up a communication between his armies on both sides the straits: and to pour in fresh troops for completing the conquest of the island. The Welsh, aware of his designs, threw up entrenchments to defend the passes into the hills. The bridge was nearly finished, except the flooring, when Luke de Tany, a brave commander, who had lately arrived with a number of Gascon and Spanish troops, to reinforce the English army, impatient of delay, passed over the unfinished bridge at low water; no enemy at that time making the least hostile appearance. But, on the flowing tide cutting off the access to the bridge, the Welsh, who had lain in an ambush, suddenly rushed forth with hideous shouts; and by the suddenness of their irruption, and the impetuosity of their onset, cast a panic among their opponents; slew numbers, and forced the remainder into the sea. Among those, who perished on this occasion, were Luke de Tany, Roger Clifford, thirteen knights, seventeen gentlemen, and two hundred soldiers. Sir William Latimer, of the officers, was the only one who escaped: and he owed his safety to his horse swimming with him to the end of the bridge.

At a small distance from this place is a field, still denominated *Maes-mawr-gad*, the plain of the great army. This has been described as the spot, where the Roman troops fought the sanguinary battle, mentioned by Tacitus. Some however suppose, that the appellation alludes to a desperate engagement here, in the year 1802, between *Gruffyd ap Cynan*, king of Gwynedd, and the usurper *Trahaiarn ap Caradog*, in which the latter was killed, and the former obtained repossession of the throne.

Plas Newydd formerly the seat of *Sir Nicholas Bayley*, but now of *Earl of Uxbridge*, lies near the banks of the Menai, in a portion of those groves once so venerated by Britons, when the island attained the appellation of Inys Dywyll. It stands upon a site of a house, belonging to the celebrated *Gwenllian*, a descendant of *Cadrod Hardd*. The present mansion is an elegant modern structure, and perhaps without exception, when

the situation and the adaptation of the building to it, are conjointly taken, it exhibits, in a noble residence, though on a confined scale, as great a display of judicious taste, as any in the united kingdom. The front is composed of a centre, and two wings, the former nearly semilunar, and the latter semioctagonal. At each angle of the sides of the centre and wings, an octagonal turret rises from the basement, above the embattled parapet several feet, terminating in a small spire, surmounted with a gilded vane. The height is three stories, the windows plain sashed parallelograms, having square reverted labels; except the lower stories in which they comprise three lights, with mullions, tracery, and lozenged glass. The front is still further extended by an elegant gothicised servants hall, over which is a chapel on nearly a similar plan. The whole presents an elegant coup d'oeil, and manifests a great degree of chasteness in architectural design. The interior and the exterior correspond; an uniformity not usually found, either in the finishing, or decorating modern mansions. *The entrance hall* on the north side of the building is lofty, but from its gothic doors, niches, and other recesses with pointed arches, has been taken for a chapel. In front of the entrance is a colonade, enriched with tabernacle work, over which a passage forms a communication with the different apartments: the whole is lighted by a flat lantern dome. On the left of this elegant vestibule is the *dining hall*, very extensive and lofty, having five large lancet-shaped windows on one side, and an elegant groined roof. Several family and other paintings adorn the walls of this room. Among other portraits, *Lady Bayley*, mother of the present Earl of Uxbridge; the first Lord Paget of the present family; Lord Paget, standing by his charger in his uniform; his lady with her infant daughter; Lady Caroline Capel with an infant in her arms, and a crib by her side. These last two are finely conceived, and exquisitely finished; but to expatiate on their merits, would appear like sounding a trump for the artists, whose fame stands too high to need it. Henry Earl of Holland in the costume of the time, and the queen of Charles the first. The last two are by *Vandyck*. *The drawing room* in the centre of the

the front is lined with painted silk, the angles burnished gold, and the furniture appropriate. The parlours, billiard and anti-rooms correspond in neatness, and the *library*, though not well stocked, is handsomely finished. The upper apartments, particularly, the state bed and octagon sitting rooms are spacious, and neatly decorated. *The chapel* not quite finished, a long and lofty building over the servants hall, has three large pointed windows on each side with stained glass, and a finely groined and fretted roof. The altar at the east end is highly ornamented with tabernacle work, has a receding canopy, and on each side the entrance, at the west end, are two enriched stalls for the chaplains, over which is a very handsome organ loft. The principal staircase is of stone, wide and lofty, the different corridores equally elegant and convenient; and the private spiral geometrical staircase unique. The whole, which is built of marble from the quarries of Moelfra, near Redwharf-bay, both in the plan and execution reflects great credit on the scientific architect, *Mr. Potter, of Litchfield:* and evinces much judgment and taste in the noble owner; for it is well designed, chaste in the ornaments, and dignified in the effect. The house, as seen from the water, rising out of a dense wood, consisting chiefly of venerable oaks and umbrageous ash trees, which cover the elevated ground behind, and form charming back and side screens, assumes an imposing appearance. A parapeted bastion-wall, built as a sea defence, along which runs a handsome terrace in front of the sloping lawn, together with the sea baths on the left, and an elegant greenhouse, emerging from the trees on the right; add considerably to the fascinating effect. The woods extend for some distance along the shore, which on that part of the straits is very bold; the boundary being perpendicular calcareous cliffs, composed of red and white limestone of an excellent quality. These on the properties adjoining the Plas Newydd estate, are quarried, and numerous vessels constantly anchored along side, to carry this useful article to different parts of the Welsh coast, for building and agricultural purposes. The prospect from the windows is picturesque

thresque and extensive. The views both up and down the magnificent and river-like Menai, are extremely fine. The opposite shores are well wooded, beautifully interspersed with gentlemen's seats, and highly cultivated spots; beyond soar a long range of the Snowdonian alps, intermingling their varied summits with the clouds. The scenes from hence, though partially existing in the same district, are as different, as can well be imagined, from those which delight the beholder at Baron Hill.

The *Stables*, built in the same style with the house, stand at a convenient distance, and except the front, are veiled from the view by a lofty grove. The fascade comprises a centre, in which is a large entrance gateway, with a pointed arch; and in the side wings are two very large pointed windows, ornamented with mullions and tracery. The angles of the building are flanked with octangular buttresses, rising in turrets above the parapet. The whole is elegant, spacious and convenient.

The *park* is not very extensive, yet from being so well clothed with antiquated woods, and modern plantations, and having the rides and walks tastefully laid out; exhibits very considerable diversity. At a small distance from the house are two *Cromlechs* standing contiguous to each other; one of which is said to be the largest monument of the kind, subsisting in the kingdom. The principal of these consists of an inclined table stone, about thirteen feet long, above eleven broad, and four thick. This is supported six feet from the ground, by six upright stones; four at the broadest end to the north-east; and two at the south-west end; two other intermediate stones have fallen, and still lie beneath: originally, therefore, it appears to have had eight supporters. The smaller cromlech, barely separated from the larger, is nearly seven feet long, by five broad, and three thick; resting upon four uprights; and a fifth has fallen.* These are overhung by the branches of an immensely large

* The number of supporters to these monuments seems merely incidental, and to have depended, at the time of their erection, upon the form, or size of the incumbent stone.

large ash tree, whose waving branches and spreading foliage, bending towards the east, forms an elegant canopy; another close by, leans the same way; and the group, including collateral shrubs, the house, the water, and the mountains peeping through a vista in the back ground, form a most delightful picture.

Here the traveller is reminded, that he enters on "classic," or rather on Celtico-sacred ground. This and the adjacent parishes abound with the remains of the consecrated groves, circles, altars, and monumental stones, vestiges of the Bardic system, and rude memorials of the religious faith and superstitious rites, practised by our forefathers in the most early period of our history. The parishes of Llanedwen, Llanddeiniel, and Llanidan, include a district, which, Mr. Rowlands attempts to prove, was the principal seat of the Druidical worship, and contained the residence of the arch and presiding Druid. Near a path, leading into the road from Plas Newydd, is a large *Carnedd*, now grown over with grass. Curiosity, about seventy or eighty years ago, induced Sir Nicholas Bayley to have it opened. A large upper stone, covered a low entrance into a subterraneous recess about four feet in diameter, and of an equal height, which led to a vault, containing human bones; and two other lateral stones apparently opened into similar cavities. This is generally supposed to have had a connection with the Cromlech. Some conjecture, it was a place of sepulture for the Druids; but Mr. Pennant thinks it might have been a place of confinement for the wretched victims, destined to be sacrificed.*

On viewing this, and similar monuments set up, as their uncouth form implies, in the rude ages of the world, the antiquarian is led to enquire, as to the time and occasion of their erection, while the experimental and mechanical philosopher will be casting about in his mind, by what means bodies of such magnitude were raised into their present situation, by a people, whom he has been led to suppose, were unacquainted with the application

* Tour in Wales, Vol. I. p. 21.

cation of the grand *mechanic* powers; the knowledge of which, he conceives, commensuratewith its extent,constitutes the difference between savage and civilized life. And certainly, on consideration, this does appear a subject for conjecture. Taking the measurement of the table stone of this Cromlech at twelve feet both ways, and four feet thick, and allowing one ounce and a half for each cubic inch, the whole weight of the incumbent will be upwards of *seven tons* And many Druidical monuments far exceed this in size and ponderosity, The powers of the lever and inclined plane, perhaps, were among the first things understood by mankind in the art of building, and of this knowledge, doubtless our British ancestors availed themselves, in erecting their monumental and religious structures. Mr. Rowlands has subjoined, to numerous other observations on the subject, the following mechanical demonstration of the raising and erecting some of our largest stone monuments, by the application of these powers. " In order to erect those prodigious monuments, we may imagine they chose, where they found, or made, where such were not ready to their hands, small aggeres, or mounts of firm and solid earth, for an inclined plane, flatted and levelled at top; up the sloping sides of which, they might with great wooden levers upon fixed fulcriments, and with balances at the end of them, to receive into them proportionable weights and counterpoises, and with hands enough to guide and manage the engines: I say, they might that way, by little and little, heave and roll up those stones they intended to erect, to the top of the hillock; where laying them along, they might dig holes in that earth, at the end of every stone, intended for a column or supporter, the depth of which holes were to be equal to the length of the stones; and then (which was easily done) let slip the stones into these holes straight on end; which stones so sunk, and well closed about with earth, and the tops of them appearing level to the top of the mount, on which the other flat stones lay; it was only placing those incumbent flat stones upon the tops of the supporters, duly poised and fastened, and taking away the earth from between them almost to the

bottom of the supporters; then there appeared what we now call Stonehenge, Rollrick, and our Cromlech; and where they lay no incumbent stones, our standing columns and pillars.*"

This is certainly an ingenious mode of accounting for the method of erecting such monuments, and is as feasible as many theoretic opinions, which have obtained general and implicit credit. But the mechanical powers were early known to the nations of the *East*, and the prodigies, performed by them in remote periods, have been justly the wonder of succeeding ages. Whether, therefore, the Britons were an immediate colony from that quarter, who emigrated by sea, or the offspring of a people, who through many generations, had been moving westward; certain it is, that they would bring with them a portion of the arts, if not of the sciences also.

In the various townships or hamlets in the vicinity, are numerous monuments, or vestiges of monuments indicative of Druidical worship. At *Bodowyr* is a remarkable cromlech, the table-stone of which, resting upon three strong supporters, is seven feet long, six broad, and six feet thick; the shape is that of a *truncated cone*. Remains of a circle of stones, and a carnedd, were once visible near it, but the stones have long been removed for the purposes of building. At *Tref-wry* are some faint traces of stone circles, so covered with weeds, and brambles, as to bid defiance to a person ascertaining their form or number. At *Tan ben Ceven* on the river Breint, are two large quadrangles, lying almost contiguous. *Caerleb* or the moated intrenchment, is of a square form, having a double foss and vallum, and within foundations of angular and circular buildings. Numerous other vestiges might possibly be discovered by a careful and patient exploratory investigation, Yet these appear to have been only the outworks of the grand seat of the arch druid at *Tre'r Dryw*. "Here," observes Mr. Pennant, "I met with the mutilated remains, described by Mr. Rowlands. His *Bryn Gwyn, Brein Guyn*, or Royal tribunal, is a circular hollow of an hundred and eighty feet in diameter, surrounded by an immense agger of earth and stones, evidently brought from

* Mona Antiqua, p. 95.

from some other place, there not being any mark of their being taken from the spot. It has only a single entrance. This is supposed to have been the grand consistory of the Druidical administration. Not far from it was one of the *Goseddau*, now in a manner dispersed, but once consisting of a great copped heap of stones, on which sate aloft, a Druid instructing the surrounding people, Multa de Deorum immortalium vi et potestate disputare et juventute, tradunt.† Here are also the reliques of a circle of stones, with the *cromlech* in the midst, but all extremely imperfect. Two of the stones are very large; one which serves at present as part of the end of a house, is twelve feet, seven inches high, and eight feet broad; and another eight high, and twenty-three feet in girth. Some lesser stones also remain. This circle, when complete was one of the temples of the Druids, in which their religious rites were performed. It is the conjecture of Mr. Rowlands, that the whole of these remains were surrounded with a circle of *oaks*, and formed a deep and sacred grove. Jam per se roborum elegunt lucos, neque ulla sacra sine ea fronde conficiunt."†

Here in the midst of this hallowed space, surrounded by its dark gloomy sheltering grove, secluding from all vulgar hearing, the mystical doctrines of Bardism, and from all unhallowed sight the profound mystic ceremonies and sanguinary rites of their religion; the mind, forced back by the vestiges before it, to a retrospective view of past ages, is enveloped in historic clouds, and, hurried by the power of reminiscence, becomes wrapped in scenes of other times. It pictures to itself the archpræsul, with his attendant Druids, first commencing the solemn carnival, by the previous preparatory ceremonies; such as cutting the *Pren awyr*, or sacred misletoe with a golden consecrated hook, received on the *sagum* or white vest, and then carefully laid up, as Jove's best, and inestimable gift to man, discoursing to the candidates for initiation, from the carnedd, on the perfection

* Cæsar. Bel. Gal. Lib. VI.

† Plin. Hist. Nat. Lib. XV. c. 44. Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol, III. p. 10.

tion and power of the immortal Gods, delegated to them, as his representatives; performing auruspices and divination by means of the mystic circles; engaging to secrecy by administering the eternal oaths at the upright columns, or stones of swearing; afterwards bringing up the victims to the cromlechs, or altars; and descanting on the retaliating justice of deity,—that for the life of man nothing but the death of another, offered up as a sacrifice, could appease the wrath of the immortal Gods, make due atonement for the evils committed, or avert the threatened punishment. The sacrificial fires kindled, and the instruments prepared, the deprecatory prayers offered up, and incantations made; it sees the feast begun.

"What direful rites these gloomy haunts disgrace,
Bane of the mind, and shame of man's high race!
'Twas deem'd, the circles of the waving wand,
The mystic figures, and the muttering band,
Held o'er all natures works as powerful sway
As the great Lord and maker of the day.
Rocks, by infernal spells and Magic prayer,
Shook from their base, und trembled high in air;
The blasted stars their fading light withdrew;
The labouring moon shed down a baleful dew;
Spirits of hell aerial dances led;
And rifled graves gave up the pale cold dead.
Imperial man, creation's Lord and Pride,
To crown the sacrificial honors, died:
That Hesus, direly pleased in joyous mood,
Might flesh their swords, and glut their scythes with blood;
And Taranis, amidst his tempests, smile,
And roll innocuous thunders o'er their isle."*

Llanfair Pwll-owyngyll.† In this parish near the shore, on a rocky eminence, is the site of an ancient British fortification, called *Craig y ddinas*, opposite to which, in the straits, are those terrible

* Richards's Aboriginal Britons, page 16.

† This is one of the few parishes in Anglesea, that has received its appellation

terrible obstacles to mariners, the *Swelly rocks*. Many of these, at low water, are visible, and the channel for a considerable space appears covered with a continued series of black and horrible breakers. When the more depressed rocks are covered with water, owing to the sea running with great rapidity between them, and by the narrowness of the channels with the opposition of the rocks, numerous vortices, or strong eddies are formed; and at those times the fury of the tide amongst them is inconceivable, except to the navigators, who often find it extremely difficult to avoid the impending danger. If the wind blows directly across the channel, it then becomes necessary in "shooting this gulph," as it may be well termed, to row the smaller, and tow the larger vessels through; lest in tacking, before they are able to get round, they should be caught in one of these eddies, and thrown upon the rocks. This, in spite of every precaution used, will sometimes happen, and in that case, the vessels only are saved by a strong current, setting in from a different direction, round those rocks, still pre-eminent above the flood. This counteraction giving time for the seamen to prepare for the next tack. "I when very young, ventured myself in a small boat during its greatest rage, and never shall forget the rapid evolutions between rock and rock, amidst the boiling waves and mill race current."† Indeed the

pellation from local circumstances, and not from some patron saint; and much critical acumen has been displayed, in attempting to furnish a probable derivation. It has been supposed the distinguishing epithet comes from *Pwll* a dool, *gwing* to wriggle, and *hyll* hideous, that is, a hideous-wriggling-pool, allusive to the opposite whirlpool in the Menai. There cannot exist a doubt that the place received the name from the assigned circumstance: but by the above-mentioned etymology it must be first changed to *Pwllgwinghyll*. The like difficulty attends *four* others, which have been adduced. Might not the following be a more probable conjecture, *Pwll* a pool-*gwyn* rage, and *gwyll* dark, or gloomy, that is, the gloomy-raging-pool; or admitting at the end of the word *gwyllt* rapid, it will be rapid-raging-pool, strongly expressive of Pwll Ceris, opposite the shore? See a letter in the North Wales Gazette of Nov. 1, 1810, by CYFIACHYDD.

† Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 23.

the violent swells, and the bursting ebulitions in some places; the furious run of tide in others, the roaring noise of the waters, occasioned by the submerged breakers, the dashing of the foam and spray in the vortices, against the uncovered and exposed rocks, with the din and turbulence around; is at certain times of flood and ebb, of such a kind, as to baffle all description to convey any adequate idea, either of the appearances they exhibit, or the sensations they excite. At high water the terrific scene completely disappears, the aquatic tumult ceases, all is hushed; and this previously alarming sea, assumes an equal semblance of safe passage, with the other parts of the Menai. This furious current between, what are considered the *Scylla* and *Charybdis* of the Welsh mariners, is denominated *Pull Ceris*; and presents a formidable obstacle to the navigation of large vessels, which are under the necessity of watching the critical season for passing, and taking on board experienced pilots.

LLANDYSSILIO. The small church of this parish is curiously situated on a small rocky peninsula, jutting into the sea. This at high water forms a small island, called *Ben Glas*, comprising a few acres of land, that afford pasturage for sheep; a causeway joins it to the opposite beach; but is only passable at ebb-tide. It is a circumstance almost peculiar to Anglesea, as Mr. Pennant remarks, "that most of the seventy-four parishes which this island is divided into, have their churches not remote from the shore." Some of them are so situated, that they are obliged to adapt the time of divine service to the state of the tide. And instances occasionally occur, where the minister is obliged to dismiss the congregation, long before the service is properly concluded. This is exemplified in the church of *Llangwyfan*, on the western side of the island; as well as in this of Llandyssilio. When the wind blows smartly in the direction of the tide, the latter will set in earlier than expected. What, on such occasions must be the feelings of both minister and congregation? The struggle to escape, before they are hemmed in by the surrounding water, must occasion a scene, too indecorous to be compatible with the sacred duties of public worship, and the previ-

ous apprehension of its necessity, is little consistent with the ture of devotion.

Here, the mind, awake to feelings of independence, and sensible of the blessings of that freedom, acknowledged and secured by the present constitution of Britain, will at this spot pause, to take a retrospective view of ages past; and while it recognizes in the code of ancient Welsh jurisprudence, a legislative system, usually considered as having been introduced at the Norman conquest, be inclined to say,

> "The Muse here shudders at the feudal plan,
> That gave to man a *property* in man,
> Contrast the periods past, the present day,
> And pours to Heaven the glad and grateful lay." LLOYD.

Mr. Rowlands, in making a distinction between the two kinds of villains under the ancient laws, whom he distinguishes into two classes, *free* and *pure natives*, supposes the difference to be this; that the former possessed some degree of freedom, might buy and sell, go where they pleased, &c. while the latter were the peculium of their proprietary lords or princes, and disposable ad libitum. He also observes, "that he met with an extract of a deed, contained in a book of Sir William Gryffyth," where the natives of this township, centuries subsequent to the appointment of princes of Wales, from the royal family of England, were *sold* as an appendage of such estate to which the lands belonged. "I have by me," he says, "a copy of injunction, issued out by Henry the seventh, king of England, commanding escheators and all other ministerial officers, to see that the king's native tenants kept within their proper limits; and if any of them were found to stray, and wander from their home, to drive them back, like beasts to their pinfolds, with the greatest severity.*

Among the boons bestowed upon the corporation of Beaumaris, so late even as the fourth year of Elizabeth's reign, the following

* Mona Antiqua. p. 122.

lowing grant appears among other privileges. "All and singular the king's lands, tenements, and hereditaments in *Bodinew*, and his villagers (cultivators) in the same town, if any be, with their *offspring*." But this was probably no more than an exemplification of a grant, made long before, by way of confirmation.

The following is one, out of three documents, adduced by Mr. Rowlands, "Ednyfed Vychan ap Edynfed, alius dictus Ednyfed ap Arthelw oz Davydd ap Gruffyd et Howel ap Davydd ap Ryryd, alias dictus Howel ap Arthelw uz Davydd ap Gryffydd, Liberi tenentes Dni. Regis villae de Rhandir Gadog. &c. dedimus et confirmavimus Willimo ap Gryffydd ap Gwilim armigero et libero tenenti de Porthamel, &c. septem nativos nostros; viz. Howel ap Davydd Dew, Matto ap Davydd Dew, Jevan ap Evan Ddu, Llewelyn ap Davydd Dew, Davydd ap Matto ap Davydd Dew, Howel ap Matto ap Davydd Dew, et Llewelyn ap Evan Coke, cum eorum sequelis tum procreatis tam procreandis ac omnibus bonis catellis, &c. habend. &c. praedictos nativos nostros, &c. praefato Willimo Gruffyd ap Gwilim heredibus et assignatus suis in perpetuum. Datum apud Rhandir Gadog, 20 die Junii, an. Henr. 6ti 27mo*." This is a strong instance of the tenacious nature of despotism, and demonstrates how difficult it is, to abolish customs, however unjust, or absurd, when once they have been established by long and general usage: especially when, like those of *vassalage*†, they have tended to exalt one part of the human species to an enviable height above the other.

GORPHWYSFA, a handsome modern mansion, erected a few years since, and pleasantly situated on an eminence above Porthaethwy, commanding delightful views, is the occasional residence of *Lord Lucan*.

* Manuscript History of Anglesea.

† A remnant of this part of the feudal system still customarily remains in the western parts of England; where if some estates are sold, or let, an usual condition is, to take all the apprentices upon them, male and female. This is an evident, though laggering proof of *persons* being *attached to the soil*.

Porthaethwy, or Porthaeddwy, is the most frequented ferry, and the passing and repassing of horses, carriages, people, and cattle, is prodigiously great. Proper boats, for the accommodation of all, except the latter description of passengers, are provided, and in constant readiness. But these are obliged to make their way on an element to which, previously they had never been accustomed, and, from their dreadful bellowings, when necessitated to take the water, evidently strikes them with most painful terror. The scene here, after a large fair in the island, is unique; and to those who can divest themselves of sympathetic feeling for the sufferings of brute animals, it must furnish considerable amusement. The bullocks are driven into the sea, and pursued by the drovers, till having lost footing they are compelled to swim, a novel exertion for the poor affrighted beasts, which they evince by plunging and turning in all directions their wistful eyes towards the land. Persons in boats attend on each side, goading them forward, and endeavouring to keep them in a direct line for the opposite shore. Some, however, at the commencement of the voyage, elude the vigilance of their aquatic drivers, and borne along by the violence of the tide, make good a landing on the wrong side: frequently at a considerable distance from the place of departure, to the no small discomfiture of those, appointed to guard at the point of embarkation. When hundreds of these animals have been thus unnaturally impelled to put their lives in jeopardy on the boisterous waves, and have at length arrived on the other side of the Menai, the scene becomes still more distressing to the compassionate beholder. Some are so exhausted with the exertions they have been forced to use, for bearing up against the tumultuous element, that every attempt at standing proves abortive, consequently they obtain a temporary respite. Others, who in the first instance turned restive, seldom fail to receive severe retaliation: the remaining number appear from their gestures more like wild, than domesticated beasts; and the whole composes a sight at which humanity shudders, Could no other plan be devised for sending these cattle to England? no method

of

of compensation be adopted? The cattle from South Wales are conveyed over the Newpassage in Monmouthshire, by proper boats; and why not those of Anglesea? The evil it is hoped will soon be removed, by a

BRIDGE OVER THE MENAI STRAITS. The obstacles presented to the traveller by the arm of the sea, called the Menai, when his way lies in this direction, have long been a subject of regret; and the delays and hinderances, occasioned by Bangor ferry, to the intercourse between England and Ireland, a matter of most serious importance: particularly since the political union of the two countries. Facility of communication between the central and remote parts of an empire, not only tends to promote the commercial interests; but to give energy to its power, and stability to its government. The scientific eye of mechanism had often looked at this passage, with a longing wistful kew, and in the fertility of its genius planned, and in imagination formed, a road across the tumultuous waves. The expediency of erecting a bridge over these straits at or near Bangor ferry, has long been in contemplation. For at a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen belonging to the principality, desirous of carrying such intended improvement into effect, held at the St. Alban's Tavern, London, April 29, 1785, it was resolved, "That the erecting a carriage bridge over the straits of Menai, will be of great public utility. That it appears from the reports and concurrent opinions of several able engineers, that the erecting a *timber* bridge upon *piles*, with three swivel bridges will not be detrimental to the navigation of the said streights, and therefore we approve of a bridge being erected upon that plan. That we will support the application, made to parliament for an act, for building a bridge across the said streights, agreeable to the above plan."

N. BAYLEY, Chairman.

These resolutions, however, were prevented being carried into effect by the influence of an opposite party, who felt, or pretended to feel, deeply interested; and whose property they

stated would not only be injured, if the scheme were executed; but that the coasting trade of Wales, and other ports of the western part of Britain, would, by such an alteration, receive a most serious deterioration.

"Here glow'd the patriot breast with public good,
And urg'd a wish to stem th' obstructing flood,
Bade Genius form the potent pier, that braves
Impeding tempests, and th' war of waves;
Beheld the embryo arch, with fostering smile,
Entice the infant to the parent isle;
But though the plan the wish of nations crown'd,
Fell Discord saw the blest design—and frown'd."

LLOYD.

The grand scheme however does not appear to have been lost sight of; neither the island genius to have been asleep nor inattentive to its permanent interests. The business has been again submitted to the consideration of Parliament, and the report of a committee in that honourable house, printed by its order in 1810,* contains the following particulars. The Right Hon. Henry Foster in the chair. From the evidence adduced, it appears the spring-tides in the Menai rise about twenty feet, and run at the rate of four miles per hour;† but the motion of the current is greatly obstructed by the numerous rocks, interspersed about the whole bed; and the estual direction is consequently very various. Vessels navigating these straits, are under the necessity of passing at the time of tide, when the current is sufficiently strong, to carry them safely through the respective channels; and this they can only do about three hours and a half westward, and one and half eastward, during the flow of each tide; unless the wind should be favourable and blow with considerable strength. The phenomenon of these

* Entitled "The second Report of the Committee on Holyhead Roads and Harbour.

† The tide near the swelly rocks, at full spring, runs from eight to nine knots an hour.

these tides is also of an unusual kind. At the full and change of the moon, it is high water at nine o'clock in the morning, on Caernarvon bar; and not till nearly half past ten at Beaumaris. Two tides set in from the western ocean, and are divided by the island of Anglesea; one part passing through the Menai straits, and the other through the great channel, or gut, lying between Holyhead, and the Irish coast. As the flow is more than an hour earlier at one of the before-mentioned places, than the other, it begins running through the strait from Caernarvon, while it is ebbing at Beaumaris; and consequently keeps falling for some time after the current has changed its direction. In a similar manner the ebb commences at Caernarvon, before it is flood at Beaumaris; and though the direction of the current is likewise in this case changed; yet it keeps rising at Bangor ferry, after it has ebbed a considerable space at Caernarvon. "These tides, a reporter to the committee states, divide, as nearly as I could observe, about Plas Newydd,* and flow about five hours, and ebb seven, at the Swelly rocks."† This remarkable difference arises from the influx of waters being impeded by Caernarvon bar, and the various rocks in the channel. Divers plans it seems had been submitted to those, interested in the removal of the difficulties, resulting from the ferry. On the former occasion three schemes were proposed. The erection of a wooden bridge; a stone ditto; and an embankment, for carrying the road across the straits. The first was objected to, as impracticable, or if not, as only forming a temporary structure, that would constantly want repairs, and in a short period renovation. The second was considered, as alike impracticable, or admitting the practicability of such a scheme, the enormous expence which must be incurred, would marr the proposed advantages of the undertaking. The third, met with the most powerful and decided opposition, especially from all the maritime interests of the western coasts of Britain; the complainants

* They separate near Beaumaris, at a place called *Tyraw point.*

† Appendix to the Report. p. 41.

contending, if such a plan were carried into effect, it would not only be exceedingly injurious to trade; but also, according to the reports of the most able engineers, most certainly ruin the harbour of Caernarvon. On the present occasion also, three plans were laid before the committee. First a bridge, to be erected at, or near Inys y Moch; having three arches, constructed of cast iron, and several others of stone; the estimate 262,500l. The second at, or near the same place; estimate 259,140l. "The island of Inys y Moch, according to the statement of the report, is situated in the straight, at a small distance from the Anglesea shore: it is a solid limestone rock, nearly covered at high water, but at low water there is a good deal of it to be seen; and the rocky neck, that connects it with the main land of Anglesea, was quite dry at low water, 29th of August;* and the width of the strait between the island and the Caernarvon shore was four hundred and fifty feet; and its depth, for a considerable part of its breadth, was upwards of thirty-two feet. The shore on the north side is covered with gravel and large stones; but at no great depth below the surface it is rock." The third at, and over the Swelly rocks, to consist of one expansive central arch of cast-iron, three hundred and fifty feet in the span, with two collateral ones of the same metal, of three hundred each; and the remaining accommodating arches to be of stone: the expence of building this, was estimated at 265,812l. The committee state, "they approve this latter plan, given in by that able and scientific engineer, *Mr. John Rennie*, having one cast-iron arch of 350 feet in the span, and two of 300 ditto, and the rest, six on the Caernarvonshire, and sixteen on the Anglesea side, of stone. The foundations to be laid on the Swelly, Penlass, and Ynis Welltog, rocks. The distance here at low water, 29th of August, 1809, was from the Caernarvon shore, 170 feet to Swelly rock; between Swelly, and Penlass 240. But there are two rocks in the channel, which make their appearance at low water, and divide it into three. The

* 1809.

The spaces between Penlass and Ynys Welltog, is quite dry at low water, and from thence to the main land of Anglesea, there is only a creek, or inlet, which may, if judged proper, be entirely shut up—From the pier on the Caernarvonshire side of the channel, land arches are proposed, to extend to the distance of about two hundred yards, and from the pier on Ynis Weltog: the land arches are proposed to extend the distance of four hundred and thirty four yards into the island of Anglesea, making the whole length, one thousand and seventy six yards. The land arches on each side are proposed, to have winged walls at their termination, and embankments of earth, to form the approaches to the bridge; and the road way is proposed, to be thirty two feet of clear, within the parapets*." The amended estimate for such a structure amounts to 2961, 417. This site, expediency has judged preferable to the one, previously selected at Inys y Moch, for the following reasons. Because the water here is wider, the land does not rise so rapidly on each side, and the rocks, previously alluded to, presenting, as it were, natural piers, would render the construction of a bridge at this place comparatively easy; and afford a better prospect of its permanent security. To show how little progress the spirit of patriotic improvement had made through the dark ages; and at the same time evince, what obstacles are opposed to the display of science, and the furtherance of useful projects, by the want of that grand stimulus to mental expansion, *freedom*, liberty of speech, and independency in action; it may be worthy of noticing; that Edward the first, having in his different military campaigns experienced the difficulties, occasioned by this fretum; expressed his intention to build a bridge of stone over the straits. The engineers, however, employed on the occasion, made an unfavourable report, as to the practicability of the scheme, "from the bottom being doubtful, and the sea, in the assigned place, assuming at certain times a raging and strong appearance:" but these objections to the hero of the crusade, and the conqueror of Wales, appeared contemptible;

* Second Report of the Committee, on Holyhead Roads and Harbour.

contemptible; and he determined to have his design executed. But from the inhabitants of the district of Arfon, petitioning, and the king's attention being called off, by the Scottish war, the plan, worthy of such a monarch, was never carried into effect.

Previous to bidding a respectful adieu to the island, after admiring its numerous capabilities, and feeling highly gratified with the patriotic spirit, displayed by many of the principal landed proprietors, it would be an unpardonable omission not to notice a recent, and most accommodating improvement. By the munificence of Lord Bulkeley, an excellent carriage road has at a vast expence been formed from Porthaethwy to Beaumaris, along the shelving side of the hill, a considerable height above high water mark. The former road was not only circuitous, but from the great inequalities and narrowness, exceedingly inconvenient; this is nearly level, the whole distance, more than four miles, and in going towards Beaumaris, as the charming bay gradually opens, though it would be hyperbolical to call it, "one of the finest terraces in the world," yet justly may it be said, the traveller is presented with a succession in picturesque and sublime scenery of unrivalled diversity.

End of Anglesea.

ARFON,

ARFON,

OR

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

CAERNARVONSHIRE anciently formed part of the region possessed by the people, denominated *Ordovices*; and after their partial reduction by the Roman power, the country assumed the name of *Venedotia*. In a subsequent period, when the division was made in the political power, and territorial possessions by Roderic the Great, it received the appellation of *Gwynedd*, comprehending this, and nearly the whole of four other counties in the present North Wales.

This district was called *Arfon*, from being situated opposite to Môn or Mona, Anglesea, meaning literally supra Monam, or the country adjacent to that island: and the addition of Caer was added to the county town, and consequently to the shire, from the circumstance, of the former having been a fortified station of the Romans.

This is a portion of country interesting by its natural productions, and multifarious scenery; but still more so by the noble exploits of its ancient occupants, and the important events, concatenated with its history. During Roman, British, Saxon, Norman, and English displays of unsatiated ambition, and tyrannic strides, towards general domination, this became the scene of a desperate and long protracted contention; because the refuge of independence, and the residence of freedom.

" We now ascend, and eastward bend our view
Where Rome's imperial eagle never flew;
The Menai leave—the rocky heights explore,
The Briton's last resource—his mountains hoar—

Whose

Where weeping freedom from the contest fled,
And Cambria saw her dearest heroes dead.
Illustrious band; distinguish'd Arfon's boast!
'Twas yours to lead in Gwynedd's warlike host.
For you, while wisdom dwelt upon his tongue,
Your own Taliesin's sweetest lyre was strung;
For you in peaceful shades, and tented plains,
Flow'd from his hallowed lips th' approving strains
Here brave Caradoc the recording Muse,
Thy virtues, conflicts, and thy fall reviews,
Thy manly eloquence, thy adverse fate
The act, that made a Claudius truely great.
Thine, liberal Roman! be the hero's fame,
And Britain's muse still venerates thy name,
Pours with a grateful flow, this verse to thee,
That bade with generous voice, thy foe be free.
Far different, Edward, are thy hated deeds—
The smile vindictive, when thy rival bleeds,
E'en now the muse can hear the traitor's voice,
Renew the shout, and alien hosts rejoice;
The triumph ring through Conway's crowded halls,
While struggling Cambria with Llewelyn falls.—
Thus fell, divided from his country's bands
The princely victim of ignoble hands;
Thus fell the heir of Britain's isles and crown,
Yet heaven had smiles reserved beyond its frown.*"

LLOYD.

This county is bounded on the east by Denbighshire, from which it is divided by the Conwy; the Glas-Llyn river separates it from part of Merioneth; the Menai straits from Anglesea; and the residue has a maritime boundary. It extends in length about forty-five miles, but its breadth is exceedingly variable, in some parts nearly fourteen, and in others not more than seven. The aspect of the county is generally of an Alpine cast, consisting of almost continued elevations and depressions;

* I confess, observes Vaughan of Hengwrt, we have reason to bless God for his mercy to us in our happy establishment under one monarch; we may well say we were conquered to our gain, and undone to our advantage."

sions, and the mountains, both from their height and shape, exhibit very discriminating characteristics in the features of this highly diversified portion of the kingdom. The principal of these constitutes what is denominated the Snowdonian chain, extending from near Conway, in the north east, to the shore that bounds Porthorian road; comprising the Snowden and the Rhifel ridges; each composed of several very large and lofty mountains. Amidst these are very deep hollows, and cwms, forming narrow vallies, through which numerous streams, that issue from the various lakes, with which this district abounds, rush with impetuous violence over cataracts, or gently meander to the sea. "These mountains," says a traveller, "are indeed, so like the Alps, that except the language of the people, one could hardly avoid thinking he is passing from Grenoble to Susa, or rather passing the country of the *Grisons*. The lakes also, which are so numerous here, make the similitude the greater; nor are the fables, which the country people tell of these lakes, much unlike the stories, which we meet with among the Switzers of the famous lakes in their country." These almost impassable heights, were the formidable, and for centuries the unassailable refuges, of the overpowered, but unvanquished Britons, when obliged to retreat before the Roman and the English force.

In speaking of Caernarvonshire, the historian Camden gives the following narration:—"But for the inner parts, nature has raised them far and wide into high mountains (as if she would condence here within the bowels of the earth, the frame of this island,) and made a most safe retiring place for the Britons in time of war. For here are such a number of rocks and craggy places, and so many vallies incumbered with woods and lakes, that they are not only unpassable to an army, but even to light armed troops. We may very properly call these mountains the British Alps, for besides that they are the highest in all the island, they are also no less inaccessible by reason of the steepness of their rocks than the Alps themselves; and they all encompass one hill, which far exceeding the rest in height, does

so

so tower its head aloft, that it seems, I shall not say to threaten the sky, but to throw its summit into it. It harbours snow continually, being throughout the year covered with it, or rather with a hardened crust of snow; and hence the British name of Kraig Eryn, and the English one of Snowden."* This account was evidently borrowed from the following:—"I must not," observes Giraldus, "pass over in silence the mountains, called by the Welsh Eryri, and by the English Snowdon, or mountains of snow, which gradually increasing from the lands of the sons of Conan, and extending themselves northwards near Deganwy, seem to rear their lofty summits even to the clouds, when viewed from the opposite coast of Anglesea. They are said to be of so great an extent, that, according to an ancient proverb, "As Mona could supply corn for all the inhabitants of Wales, so could the Eryri mountains afford sufficient pasture for all the herds, if collected together." Hence these lines of Virgil may be applied to them.

Et quantum longis carpent armenta diebus
Exigua tantum gelidus ros nocte reponet.

And what is cropt by day the night renews
Shedding refreshful stores of cooling dews.†"

These mountains certainly form a very prominent feature in the topographical delineation, and an important subject in the natural history, of North Wales; as well as its antiquities. They were anciently denominated *Creigiau'r Eryri*, but subsequently by the English Snowdon; and from the latter circumstance it has been supposed, their appellation was derived from the upper parts of the ridge, being, like the Niphates in Armenia, and the Imaus in Tartary, constantly covered with snow. But neither the facts nor etymology will support the conjectural criticism. Had the Welsh name corresponded with the English, it would have been *Creigiau'r Eiry* or *Eira*, that is snow-clad

* Gibson's Camden, p 794.
† Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 130.

clad rocks. But notwithstanding the assertion of Camden and others, it is not true, that snow lies on these mountains the whole year round. The summits, during winter, and at times, for a considerable part of the spring are covered with snow, and, contrasted with the verdure of their skirts, forms a pleasingly variegated contrast. The term Eryri is evidently derived from *Eryr*, an eagle; and Creigiau'r Eryri is literally, the Eagle-rocks. This appellation, some writers suppose, was, given them on account of numerous eagles having formerly here taken up their alpine abode; and to the present time, a few of these ravenous birds are found skulking from human ken,* amidst the lofty clefts of their precipitous heights. Others have imagined, that Eryri might have been applied to these rocks metaphorically, from their having been the grand retreats of the Britons, when overpowered by their enemies, and driven to extremities; and whence, as opportunities offered, they sallied forth, and like infuriate eagles, darted their talons on the heads of their pursuers. This is not a chimerical supposition; for the Bards were accustomed to bestow the epithet *Eryr*, in their laudatory descriptions of great men, more particularly in the eulogies of persons, who had distinguished themselves in warfare.† In the direction of these mountains, the

* According to vulgar tradition, says the itinerant monk, these mountains are frequented by an eagle, who perching on a fatal stone every fifth holiday, in order to satiate her hunger, with the carcases of the slain, is said to expect war on that same day; and to have almost perforated the stone by cleaning and sharpening her beak." Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 131.

† Thus the bard of Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, A. D. 1200, observes,

"Dywawd Derwyddon
Dadeni Haelion
O hil *Eryon*."
O Eryri.

That is "Druids have foretold, that generous heroes should arise from the race of the eagles of Eryri."

Jolo Goch also, in praise of Owen Glyudwr remarks,

"*Eryr* digrif afrifed
Owain helm gain hael am ged."

Owen the *eagle* witty beyond comparison, of bright armour, and of a bountiful disposition."

the observations of Kirwan will appear peculiarly appropriate. Many extend in length from north to south, while others take a line from east to west; and nearly the whole, range under one or other of these aspects: which bearings are accounted for, from the existing of two opposite currents at the deluge; the one from east to west, the other from north to south: the former in the course of the tides, and the latter tending towards those vast abysses, formed in the vicinity of the south poles. These primitive mountains gave rise to another striking phenomenon; "The uniform escarpement, or inequality of declivity, which the sides and flanks of mountains exhibit, according to the bearings of their aspects, on the different points of the compass to which they are exposed." This position is established by the statements of the most accurate travellers in every part of the world. Those mountains, which extend from north to south, have their abrupt declivity on the western side; those from east to west on the southern side, and the intermediate bearings, admit a similar rule. This geological fact, Mr. K. supposes conclusive of the fact, that two currents subsisted in the antediluvian seas, and at the time of the receding deluge.* The common escarpment of the Snowdonian chain, fronts the Menai, and ranges in a parallel line with the straits. The declivous sides of particular portions of the chain, depends much on the inclination of the strata. The principal elevations are Carnedd David, Carnedd Llewelyn, Trevaen, Moel Ogwen, Moel Siabod, the two Glyders, the two Lliders, Moel Llyfni, and Moel mynnydd Nant; all, apparently by their towering height, emulous to support the proud parent of the whole, *Snowdon*, with his pre-eminent summits of Crib-y-distyll, and y Wyddfa, or the dripping peak, and the conspicuous summit.

The height of mountains, as they affect the eye, must be considered from the spot, where the ascent begins to make a large angle with the plain. But, philosophically considered, they are computed from the surface of the ocean. Mr. Caswell, who was employed by Mr. Adams, author of the Index Villaris, to measure it in 1682, with instruments adjusted by that able philosopher, Flamstead, made the height of the highest point, 1240

* Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. VIII.

1240 yards, (3720 feet) above the level of Caernarvon Quay. But later, and probably more accurate experiments have somewhat reduced its height; and the estimate now stands 3560 feet above the Quay; which, taking the height and that of the Quay, will make it about 3600 feet above the level of the sea. Carnedd Llewelyn ranges next, and Moel Siabod third in the scale of eminence. The rocks that compose the higher part of the chain, are principally porphyry, granite, and granitel of Kirwan; the secondary rocks are chiefly horneblende, Schiller spar, load-stone, rowley rag, whinstone, schistose mica, schistose clay, mixtures of quartz, feld spar, mica, and argillaceous schistus, in all its varieties.

On the western side are a number of basaltic columns, on a bed of hornstone, or chertz: and large coarse crystalls, cubic pyrites, and various mineral bodies, are frequently found in the fissures. In the schistose rocks are several slate quarries; very considerable ones near Dolbadern; some in Llanddeiniolen; others in Llanberis; a few in Llan Eilgwyn; and very large ones at Cilgwyn, in Llanlyfni; the products of which are brought to Caernarvon, and thence shipped for a market. Those of Lady Penrhyn are at Dolawen; and there is a large quarry of the novaculite of Kirwan, varieties of second and third of that species, near Cwm Idwal; where great quantities of hones are cut, and annually sent to London and Dublin. Large silicious crystals, commonly called rock diamonds, are frequently found in the fissures of the rocks, and washed down by the violent torrents, occasioned by the heavy rains of this alpine tract, are collected by the poor inhabitants, and presented for sale to travellers and tourists, as an extraordinary and valuable production. Some curious specimens also of cubic pyrites, and christalized tin, have at times been discovered.

The animals of these alpine tracts, were formely wolves, stags, foxes, and goats; but the former noisome animals have long ceased to be a terror to the traveller, and the deer, which in Leland's time, appear to have prevented the growth of corn, by the havoc they made, were extirpated, according to

a manuscript account, some time prior to the year 1626. Numerous foxes, however, still find shelter in the holes and clefts of the rocky crags, so abundant in this district. These, by their nocturnal depredations on the poultry, lambs, and sheep, are a sad annoyance to the farmers, whose annual losses from these destructive and insidious enemies, is beyond the power of calculation. Fox-hunting forms a fine source of amusement for the country gentlemen, and as in many instances it must be a pedestrian exercise, from the nature of the ground, the commonalty are enabled to participate in the pleasures of the chase: the only requisite being a leaping pole, to assist the pursuer in passing any obstructing stream, or treacherous quagmire. The Welsh are peculiarly partial to this field sport, and it certainly in a great degree, tends to keep down, if not diminish the number of these pernicious vermin, while at the same time it evidently promotes a sociable and hospitable disposition. The ancient wild inhabitants, the goats, annually seem to decline in number, and their value has decreased in value, owing to the general disuse of brushy wigs, which were usually made of the snowy hair of these shaggy animals.

Of rare and curious birds, the *golden eagle, falco chrysaetos,* is known to have bred, though rarely, amidst these mountains; but those of the genus seen here, generally are occasional visitors, which come for a season in quest of prey. The *ring,* or *rock Ouzel, Turdus torquatus,* the inhabitant of this district, is when found, in most places, a migratory bird; but here the species take up their abode, building their nests among the rocks, nurturing their young by the sides of the lakes, and descending into the dells, to feed on the berries of the Sorbus aucuparia, the mountain ash.

Among the various lakes already enumerated, many abound with fish, of which some are peculiar to Alpine waters, and others, noted for extraordinary conformation. Giraldus, who was desirous of describing every thing of a marvellous nature, produced in the principality, has the following remarks. "On the high part of these mountains, are two lakes worthy of notice; the one has a floating island in it, which is often driven from one side to the

other by the force of the winds; and the shepherds behold with astonishment their cattle, whilst feeding, carried to the distant parts of the lake.* A part of the bank, naturally bound together by the roots of willows and other shrubs, may have been broken off, and increased by the alluvion of the earth from the shore: and being continually agitated by the winds, which in so elevated a situation, blow with great violence, it cannot reunite itself firmly with the banks. The other lake† is noted for a wonderful and singular miracle; it contains three sorts of fish, eels, trout, and perch, all of which have only one eye, the left being wanting: but if the curious reader should demand of me the explanation of so extraordinary a circumstance, I cannot presume to satisfy him. It is remarkable that in two places in Scotland, one near the eastern, the other near the western sea, the fish called mullets possess the same defect, having no left eye.‡

This district, by the multifarious varieties of plants, composing its vegetable surface, presents a spacious field for phytological investigation; and to the lovers of botany must afford a rich repast of rational amusement. It peculiarly abounds with those species of herbaceous plants, styled by Linnæus, in his usual expressive and depictive manner, *Ethereæ;* because their habitats, or localities, are only discoverable on the higher parts of mountains: and notwithstanding the seeds, by adverse winds,

* This is a small lake, named *Llyn y Dywarchen*, or the lake of the sod, on the right of the road, leading from Caernarvon to Beddgelert; which still exhibits the same peculiarity, as here mentioned, and rationally accounted for. When the celebrated Wilson was painting a picture, that included this lake in its scenery, he was long at a loss, how to depict this singular phenomenon. At length the idea occurred to him, of exhibiting the movability of the island, by pourtraying a man, standing with a pole in his hands, and in the act of shoving it towards the shore. E.

† The other is *Llyn y cum*, or the Dog's Pool, which is considered the highest among these mountains. The monocular fish have, however, long disappeared. E.

‡ Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 130.

most frequently be blown downwards, yet they are never found to vegetate in the lower, or champaign parts of the country. Numerous other genera* display their verdant and blooming beauties amidst these elevated tracts, many of which have rarely been found in any other.

It would be a matter of high gratification, if *Sylva*, could equally with *Flora*, boast of her profusion of decorative ornament. But alas the once immense forest is almost converted into one denudated country. In the time of Leland, it was very different, "Al Cregeeryri is forest. The best wood of Caernarvonshire is by Glynne Kledder, and by Glin Llughy, and by Capel Kiryk, and at Llanperis Meately, good wood about Conway Abbey, and Penmachno and about Cotmore, and Coite-parke, by Bangor, and in many other places."† But the venerable oaks and patulous beeches are gone, and their stools in numerous instances only remain, to point out where they once flourished, and "waved their verdant foliage in the wind." This denudation has been attributed to the unhappy contentions between the Welsh and English, for Snowdonia forming the dernier resort of the Britons,‡ and furnishing them shelter by its mountains and woods, induced Edward the first to employ his soldiers in felling the latter; that in future they might not be an annoyance to the progress of his armies. Thus imitating the policy of the Emperor Alexander, who, it is said, could not conquer the *Mardi*, till after he had caused to be felled the forests of Hyrcania.‡ And with a similar view, John duke of Lancaster, to revenge the depredations committed upon the English borders

* See a systematical catalogue of these with their habitats, or the account of places where they grow, in Bingley's North Wales, Vol. II. p. 363.

† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 42.

‡ This last fragment of the British dominion, the five baronies of Snowdon, was all that Llewelyn ap Gryffyd could gain by stipulation, at the short lived peace of 1277.

‡ Quintius Curtius, Lib. V.

sters by the Scotch; set twenty-four thousand axes to work upon the woods in the southern part of Scotland. But this, from the previous description, furnished by Leland, by no means satisfactorily accounts for the general defalcation. Mining has been one general cause. At a variety of periods, mines of different kinds have been discovered, and worked; and as coal was not found in this district, smelting the ores must, by a prodigious demand for wood, have occasioned a very considerable consumption. It is curious to see the manner in which the observant Leland, accounts for this denudation, so manifest in another district, and now lamentably apparent in this: "The causes be these; first the wood cut down was never copisid, and this hath beene a great cause of destruction of wood thorough Wales. Secondly, after cutting down of wooddys the gottys hath so bytten the young spring, that it never grew but lyke shrubbes. Thirddely, men for the nonys destroied the great woddis that thei shuld not harborow theves."* Two causes have been especially, and powerfully operating, to deprive this part of the country, of its strength, and beauty. The constant requisitions upon this species of property by the unceasing wants of avarice, and luxury; and the general disinclination in some instances, and disability in others, of making new plantations, to answer the deficiencies of disease or decay, and repair the still greater losses, occasioned by continual felling. It is here worthy of pointed observation, to recollect, how much the preservation of trees for a supply of timber, has occupied the attention of legislative assemblies, in the most remote, as well the more recent ages. The divine law, even in lawful warfare, and that in the country of the enemy, restricts the felling of trees; humanely distinguishing between such as were fructiferous or not.† By several constitutions in ancient systems of jurisprudence, but particularly in the lex Aquilea, to cut down the trees of others, was adjudged an act, deserving

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 77.

† Deuteronomy, chap. xx. v. 19, 20.

capital punishment. And by virtue of our own laws, any one, convicted of cutting, damaging, &c. any tree, or trees, likely to become timber, if only to the amount of five shillings in value, is deemed guilty of felony.* From the time of Ina, king of the West Saxons, to the present era, numerous regulations have been made for the preservation of timber. The tenantry on estates are bound by the laws, as well as restrictive leasehold clauses, from felling, and, in many cases, from even lopping the trees, on the respective estates; and why should not some salutary, and effectual law be enacted to prevent *proprietors* of lands, from despoiling these tracts of their sylvan beauty, friendly shade, and, under proper management, perpetual resources of wealth. The legislature has in divers instances prohibited the alienation of descendable property, why therefore should not landholders be restrained from the present maniacal mode of administering to their vices, by the destruction of their woods?

In some states of Germany a law existed, that obliged a landed proprietor, previous to his cutting down a timber tree, to plant, and protect another. A still wiser plan would be, to increase the obligatory number. But in this region coercive measures must, even to a superficial observer, appear superfluous. A considerable portion of the Alpine heights, and shelving crags of the mountains, are totally unfit for cultivation; but if planted, would soon become a very productive property. They are favourable, as is evident from similar soils, where such trees flourish, to the growth of oak, ash, beech, and other timber trees; and if plantations of these were interspersed with Scotch and spruce firs, sufficient wood, for various uses, might in a few years be cut out, and sold for a very valuable consideration. The subject appears to have excited some attention lately in the county, and a few of the great landed proprietors have began to ornament their domains with sylvan decoration. And it is highly desirable, that their labours should be extended, and their example more generally followed.

The

* Statutes at large, 6 Geo. III. c. 36.

The whole of this extensive region, after the population had been so pertinacious in their patriotic views, was not only thinned of its inhabitants, by the necessary excision, arising from protracted warfare, but was studiously depopulated by the policy of the conqueror, converting the chief part of the lands into a royal forest. To persons unacquainted with the topography of ancient history, and the desolating nature of many political maxims, it must appear almost paradoxical, that ever such an apparently unfavourable country was well peopled, as, from the long and vigorous resistance it made, must have been the case; or that persons of rank and consequence should have made such rugged dreary wilds, their place of residence. Yet beyond all doubt, from historic documents, the remaining names of places, and other circumstances, these mountains, now almost destitute of people, were much more populous in ancient times, than at present; though vestiges of their dwellings, from having in some instances been constructed of timber, and in others of loose stones, are now untraceable. In those dark ages, when intestine warfare not only debilitated, but nearly annihilated the power of law, and the influence of custom was too weak, to protect the innocent, or obtain punishment for the guilty; when, from the prevalence of ignorance, and the over-clouding veil of superstition, wickedness became licentious, property precarious, life hazardous, and plunder, rapine, and murder, were included among venial crimes by virtue of *sanctuary*;* where could persons of consequence, or probity find a more secure asylum? But by this system, which had been adopted by the Norman race of kings, and all the great tyrants of the earth over vanquished countries, the state of

* Owing to the perilous state of the country, under the reign of the later Welsh princes, the laws were imbecile, from the impossibility of seeing them duly executed. Sir John Wynne, in his history of the Gwydir family, adduces melancholy facts of the most flagrant crimes, committed, during the existing factions between the houses of Lancaster and York. Murder was compensated by a fine, and the assassin might escape that punishment, by only flying from one manor to another !!

things soon became materially changed: the once populous and proud region was stripped of its independent inhabitants, to gratify regal ambition, and re-peopled with animals, adapted to satiate regal luxury. Under this authority a considerable portion of the country still is included among, what are denominated the crown lands. Snowdonia being a royal forest, frequent warrants were issued for the killing, and appropriation of the deer. There is one, signed by Robert Townesend, in the first year of queen Elizabeth; and another by Henry Sydney, in 1561. The last is a little singular, as extending the forest into the counties of Merioneth and Anglesea, with the view of gratifying the queen's favourite, Dudley, earl of Leicester, who had been appointed chief ranger: although Leland had, so late as the time of Henry the Eighth, made a very minute enquiry as to the topography and propertial state of this part of the kingdom; and under royal commission positively asserted, that all *Cregery*, viz. Snowdonia,* is Caernarvonshire, and no part comprised in any other county.

These documents, curious, not only as confirming the fact, but also as elucidatory of the spirit of the times, are couched in the following terms:

"Warrant for a stagg, out of Snowden forest, 4 July 1st. year of Queen Eliz. 1558.

I require you to deliver, or cause to be delivered, unto the bringer hereof, for the furniture and provision of the Queen's majesty's houshold of her great council in the marches of Wales, one stagge of this season, to be taken out of her highness forrest of Snowdon. And this bill signed with my hand, with the queens highness warrant dormant to the lord president, and Sir Robert Townessend, Knight, justice of Chester, and either of us, made for the same, the copie whereof remayneth with you, shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge in that bequest

* Speaking of Ardudwy, he says, "This commot nor no part of Merionithshire lyith in Cregery. So that though this shire be montanius, yet is al Cregery in Cairarvonshir." Itinerary. Vol. V. p. 40.

bequest. Given at her highness town of Salop, the 4th day of July, in the first yere of her majesty's reigne.

ROBT. TOWNESSEND.

To the master of the game, ranger and keeper of the queen's highness forrrest of Snowdon, in the county of Caernarvon, there duputy or deputies there."

Another, somewhat different in its complexion, runs thus, "After my hearty commendations.— These are to require you to deliver to my friend Maurice Wynne, Gent. or to the bringer hereof in his name, one of my fee staggs or bucks of this season, due to me out of the Queen's majesty's forrest of Snowdon: and this my lre shall be your warrant of the same. So fare you well. From Cardigan, the 14th of August, 1561.

Your loving friend

H. SYDNEY.

To my very loving friende John Vaughan, forrester of the Queens forrest of Snowdon, in the counties of Anglesea, Merioneth, and Carnarvon; and in his absence to his deputy there*."

Under his authority, as ranger, the earl of Leicester gave by his conduct, a different idea to the term; for in consequence, he tyrannized over the three counties, pretendedly included in his commission, with the most rapacious injustice, and insufferable insolence. There were not wanting on the occasion persons who, to obtain favour or reward, suggested, that nearly the whole of the frechold property, from the vague wording of the grant, might, by constructive evidence, be brought

* These, preserved among the Gwydir manuscripts, are copied in an appendix to Pennant's Tour in Wales.

brought within the boundaries of the forest. Commissioners were in consequence appointed, and juries impannelled to make inquisition, into the numerous encroachments, made on the royal property. But by the integrity of the jurors and the firmness of the commissioners, particularly Sir William Herbert, and Sir Richard Bulkeley, the tyrant's views were frustrated. In 1578 a special commission was appointed, composed of persons dependent on the ranger. A jury, equally compliant in its views, was subpœned to attend at Beaumaris, and directed to survey the Maeltraeth marsh. After doing so, they delivered in a verdict, and found, that district to lie within the verge of Snowdon forest; notwithstanding it was in the county of Anglesea, and divided from Snowdonia, by an arm of the sea. This decision they were induced to come to, by the instruction of the commissioners, who said, that in the Exchequer of Caernarvon they had found an indictment, stating, a stag had been roused in the forest of Snowdon, in Caernarvonshire; which being pursued to the banks of the Menai, swam over that branch of the sea, and was killed at Maltraeth, "*infra forestam nostram de Snowdon,*" situated within the bounds of Snowdon forest. Conscious of the rectitude of former resistance, and relying on the justice of the cause, he had espoused, Sir Richard Bulkeley, in behalf of the landholders, spurned at the proceedings of the commissioners; and continued stedfast in his opposition to the tyrant. He personally laid before the Queen the unparalleled sufferings the Welsh were subject to, by the power, exercised under the commission; painted in glowing colours the odious nature of the proceedings; the disgrace such transactions reflected upon the exalted character of her majesty; and at length prevailed with her, to recal the commission grant: which was done by public proclamation at Westminster in the year 1579. Thus disappointed in his views, and interfered with, in his influence at court, Leicester pursued Sir Richard with an inveterate animosity, that only ceased with the Earl's life. The former still continuing to be in favour with the Queen and her council, notwithstanding all

kinds

kinds of machinations, were used to oust him; the latter determined to let no opportunity slip, of satiating his long conceived, and harboured revenge upon his antagonist. Innuendos and all the artful train, employed by Slander's deputy, Insinuation, having failed to effect the desired purpose; a home charge of criminality, professedly founded upon facts, must necessarily be resorted to: and at length an opportunity offered of executing the nefarious design.

"Sir Richard being one of the deputy lieutenants of Anglesea (upon intelligence of the Spanish Armadas, threatening England) was to cesse the country in arms; and cessing the woods of Rhosmore, he was highly offended, and thought himself too heavily laden: therefore went up to court to the Earl of Leicester, carrying a false tale with him, that Sir Richard Bulkeley, (a little before the attainder and execution of Thos. Salusbury, one of the accomplices of Anthony Babington, the traitor, 1585) had been in the mountains of Snowdon, conferring with him, and that at a farm of Sir Richards, called Cwmligie, they had layne together two or three nights. The Earl, glad of this information, presently acquaints the Queen and council therewith. Sir Richard being called before the council, and examined, absolutely denied the whole matter. And when the Earl, at yt. time president of the Queen's counsil, did severely inforce it agt. him, he told the Earl to his face, "Your father, and the very same men, as now informe against me, were like to undoe my father: for upon the death of K. Edward 6. by letters from your father, he was commanded to proclayme Queen Jane, and to muster the country; which he did accordingly: and had not my mother been one of Queen Maries maids of honor he had come to great trouble and danger." Hearing these words, the counsil hushed, and rose; and Sir Richard departed. The Earl hastened to the queen, and told her the counsil had been examining Sir Richard Bulkeley, about matters of treason; that they found him a dangerous person, and saw cause to commit him to the tower; and that he dwelt in a suspicious corner of the world. "What! Sir Richard

'Richard Bulkeley! said the queen; he never intended us any harm. We have brought him up from a boy, and have had special tryal of his fidelity: you shall not comitt him." "We" said the Earl, "have the care of your majestys person, see more and hear more of the man than you doe: he is of an aspiring mind, and lives in a remote place." Before God (replyed the queen) we will be sworn upon the holy Evangelists, he never intended us any harm;" and so ran to the Bible and kissed it, saying, "You shall not comitt him: we have brought him up from a boy." Then the lords of the counsill wrote a letter to Dr. Hugh Bellot, lord bishop of Bangor, to examine the truth of the accusation layd to Sir Richard's charge: which the bishop found false and forged; and so certifyed to the counsil. Whereupon he was cleared, to the queen's majesty's great content, to the abundant joy of his country, and to his own great credit and reputation: and afterwards diverse of the lords of the councell wrote letters to the justices of assize of North Wales, to publish Sir Richards wrongs*."

The principal royalties in the county, still belong to the king, many estates are held by regal grants, and most of the waste lands are subject to inquisition from the exchequer. Numerous large and small freeholds, however, escaped the grasp of despotism, and the transfer of property has, in few instances, for many years, received any annoyance from the crown. The principal great landholders and their seats, at present in the county, are the following:

Proprietors.	Seats.
Lord Newborough, a minor	GLYNLLIVON PARK.
Lady Penrhyn,	PENRHYN CASTLE.
Thomas Asheton Smith, M. P.	VAENOL HALL.
Sir Robert Williams, bart.	NANT HALL.
Mrs. Finch, ...	CEFN AMWLCH, and LIME HALL.

Colonel

* From the Plus Gwyn M. S. S. published in Pennant's Tour in Wales. Vol. III. Appendix.

of this district, are considered in general, superior to any bred in the county.

The farmers are chiefly dairy men; and make their rents from butter, wool, and lambs: they possess a few small cows, numerous herds of goats, and sheep, of a diminutive size. During the summer months, these are followed by their owners, who leave their winter habitations, and take up their residence amidst the hills; where they erect what are termed *havodtai*, or summer dairy houses, which are merely huts, like the cottages before described, not unlike the sennes occupied by the farmers of Switzerland. The furniture is equally simple with the building; a few stones supply the place of chairs, and bundles of rushes along the sides, are in lieu of beds. Here the men pass their time in tending their flocks, or in harvest work; while the women milk the cattle, and are occupied in their dairies: they milk both sheep and goats as well as cows. A goat yields daily about two quarts of milk, the sheep, one. Of these they make butter for sale, and cheese for home consumption.

Their mode of living is very simple: *Bara ceirch*, or oaten bread, with a little hung smoke-dried goat's flesh, forms the principal food; while their drink consists of whey, or butter-milk, and a few bottles of cwrw, preserved as a cordial in case of illness. They are, as may be expected, from their plain and humble way of living, a hardy race; and free from many of those chronic diseases which are the offspring and concomitants of luxury and dissipation. If medicine is deemed necessary, the vegetables in the vicinity, furnish the supply, which is administered by the advice of some skilful and venerable matron.

The season over, on the approach of the cold, they return to their *hen dreſon*, or winter habitations, where they enjoy the produce of their summer labours, and employ themselves in domestic concerns. "The employ of the mountain people in summer and in winter, besides feeding their cattle, and dairy work, is that of carding and spinning their wool, of which they make cloth for their own wearing, and for sale in the neighbouring

bouring fairs and markets. Vast quantities of this, and of excellent woollen stockings, are carried to Llanrwst, Caernarvon, and other markets, far and near. They also make great quantities of striped linsey-woolsey of different patterns, which they call stuff, for women's gowns, &c. and where there is more wool than the family can manufacture, it is sold at the neighbouring fairs, Llanrwst fair, held on the 21st of June, is their principal mart for wool; English buyers come there for it; and the price which it fetches at that fair, is usually the standard for the year. They also spin a good quantity of coarse linen cloth for their own use, and a great part of it is sold. They do not use much linen for their own wearing; they wear chiefly flannel shirts, and sleep between blankets.

The spinners and weavers of these hills have a measure peculiar to themselves. The yard they use, is called the Welsh yard, which is forty inches in length; by this all their milled cloth, flannels, linseys, and linen are sold."* It is usual for the head of the family to be skilled in every trade, and the different branches necessary for their mode of life; as that of mason, carpenter, smith, wheelwright, shoe-maker, taylor, &c. in which occupations the rest of the family assist him; and it is not a little gratifying to observe, with what varied ingenuity he performs the several operations of handicraft business.

The inhabitants are remarkable for *longevity*, and many memorial stones in different cemeteries, are inscribed with dates, far exceeding the octogesimal period, generally allowed for human existence, in this sublunary state. This may be accounted for, in some degree, from the absence of luxury and dissipation, prevalent in more fertile regions; from the frugality in their mode of living; but principally from the climature, the bracing effects of a cold sharp oxygenated atmosphere, preserving an equability of internal and external pressure upon the animal frame, thus aiding digestion, and producing corporeal vigour.

The

* Williams's Observations on the Snowden mountains.

No ayre so pure and wholesome as the hill,
Both man and beast delights, to be thereon,
In heate, or cold it keepes on nature still,
Trim neate and drye, and gay to go upon.
The soil is cold and subject unto winde,
Hard duskie rocks, all covered full dim;
Where if winde blowe, ye shall foule weather finde,
And thinke you feel the bitter blasts full brim.
But though cold bytes the face, and outward skin,
The stomach loe, is thereby warm'd within.
For still more meate the Mountayne men digest,
Than in the playne you finde among the best.
Soure whey and curds can yeeld a sugred tast,
Where sweet *martchpane*, as yet was never knowne:
When empty gorge hath bole of milke embrast,
And cheese and bread, hath dayly of his own,
He craves no feast, nor seekes no banquets fine,
He can digest his dinner without wine!
So toiles out life, and likes full well this trade,
Not fearing death, because his count is made*."

The general firing of the country people is peat, quantities of which they dig in the morassy parts of the wastes and commons, and store up for winter use. Much of this remarkable and valuable substance contains a large portion of bituminous matter, which renders it, as fuel, a tolerable substitute for coal: an article of very limited use, in the district, from the very high price; which is nearly as enormous in this county, as in the island of Anglesea; and for similar reasons. The supply is obtained from the coal-works in Lancashire, consequently the duty coastwise, freightage, commission, &c. greatly contribute to enhance the first purchase price. The fire is usually made by piling ignited coals, or peat, on the stone floor of the chimney place. For though grates have been introduced; yet such is the power of prejudice, or the influence of custom, that many consider a fire, elevated above the level of the floor, far less

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales.

calculated for the purposes of warmth and drying cloths, than one enkindled upon the prostrate hearth.

Their *Habitations* in general are as rude, as their food is coarse. In some parts, particularly in Llyn, they consist of walls, built of, what in Devonshire is termed, *cobb*; that is, an argillaceous earth having straw or rushes mixed with it, while in a state of paste; and then laid layer upon layer, between boards, till the whole are ready for the formed roof, composed of thatch, either of straw, or heath. Many of these hovels, for little else can they be considered, are destitute of chimnies; the smoke making its escape by an aperture, at the extremity of the building. In the more mountainous parts, the cottages are constructed of loose stones, such as are found in abundance about the basements of the mountains. Those are piled on each other, and the interstices caulked, or stuffed with moss, to prevent the ingress of winds and driving rains. The houses of the small farmers, however have the openings, filled with mortar; and, in some few instances, plaistered, and whitewashed over. In the more frequented parts of the county, between Caernarvon and Conway, both cottages and superior dwellings are chiefly built of stone, quarried for the purpose; and though these consist of very shapeless masses, they are so artfully put together, that the very irregularity of the seams is not unseemly. The roofing is generally formed of the fine blue slate, dug in the vicinity; which, when the walls are white washed, or rough cast, gives them a very cheerful aspect. The late Lord Penrhyn, with a noble and patriotic spirit, the good effects of which will be felt for ages to come, by planting on his estates, building numerous neat farm houses, with suitable offices, and others of a smaller description, for husbandmen and artisans, has converted a wild waste, into a comparative well peopled paradise. In situations exposed much to westerly winds, the walls of dwelling houses are not unusually guarded with slates. These are applied to the walls, squameously, or clinker fashion, that is, each succeeding row upwards, partially overlaying the one below. This method

method of facing is adopted to prevent the insinuating sea air, from penetrating the walls, and affecting the rooms with dampness. Houses thus fronted with a fine coloured slate; the slates well selected, and put on neatly, with black, or dark grey mortar,* assume a handsome appearance. But some, from the oozing of the white mortar out of the joints, and spreading partially over the surface in stripes, or patches, are as disgusting, as the others are grateful to the eye.

Fences. Nothing perhaps marks more strongly the rural management of any district, than the mode of fencing, and the state of its field boundaries: and in the different parts of the kingdom, these form very strong characteristic features in the agricultural face of the country. Much land, not deemed in a state of waste, through this county, has for ages been devoid of fences; and those considered as inclosed, have such mounds, as not only permit the sheep to transgress, but also cattle and horses to pass over; to the great annoyance and loss of the occupiers of such lands: though under the circumstances of the case, such loss would, with difficulty, be adjudged *damage feasant*. Few quick, or coppice, hedges are to be seen, but the fields are divided by low walls, three feet high, and in places not more than two, constructed of odd stones, collected off the land, or from the adjacent commons. These are loosely piled in an heterogeneous manner, except, that frequently smaller pieces are laid upon a large huge block, placed evidently in its present position centuries ago: and from the curvature of many fences, the several massy blocks, discoverable in them, probably formed the clue for the direction they take. Mounds so unstable often fall, open breaches for all kinds of errant cattle; and present no obstacle whatever to sheep, which at the approach of winter descend in myriads from the mountains, like swarms spread over the lowland fields, and, by a kind of overwhelming authority, devour every thing within

* A cement compounded of quick or boiling lime, and sharp sand, intermixed with coal-ashes, or forge cinders.

their gripe. So that the farmer possesses not the power of exclusively depasturing his own autumnal and winter herbage; nor of securing from serious trespass, his infant crops of corn. A laudable spirit of improvement has, however, lately displayed itself in this respect, and many gentlemen have cleared their fields of the numerous large blocks of stone, that are dispersed over most of the estates of this district, which previously formed a serious obstacle to culture. These have been blasted by the force of gun-powder, and shivered into small pieces, admirably fitted for the purposes of building. Almost the whole of the lands, adjacent to the mountains are covered with immense masses of stone; the removing of which, though attended with great expence, is an essential step towards the improvement of the estates. This ameliorating plan, is, however, introduced, and promises to become general; and the manner in which the business is performed is extremely curious. A hole is first bored by means of a hammer and chissel, in one of the ponderous fragments of rock, about the diameter of a common fusee barrel; and from ten to eighteen inches deep. At the bottom of this, is lodged a certain quantity of gun-powder. The operator then takes a thin iron rod, tapering to a point, nearly two feet in length, which he places perpendicularly in the hole, and round it stuffs in small stones, clay, &c. ramming the charge down, by means of another iron tool with a kind of groove in it, for the purpose of passing freely about the aforesaid rod. The work thus prepared, the rod is withdrawn, and a straw, filled with gunpowder, is substituted in its place. A match of such a length, as will burn a sufficient time, to afford opportunity for the workman to escape, is then applied, a grand explosion ensues, and the mass bursts into numerous pieces. Compact walls, of a proper preventative height, have been erected, and the face of the country begins to exhibit visible marks of improvement: to further which, it is probable a due portion of emulation will, in the course of a few years, greatly contribute. Indeed many inclosure acts have received the sanction of Parliament, and several commissions are now putting the powers

of

of them into execution; viz. those for dividing and allotting the extensive wastes in the parishes of Llanrûg, Llanddeniolen, &c. &c. The rent of land is in general apparently very high; but then, it should be considered, here are few farms, that do not possess some advantages beyond their precincts, either by liberty of waste, or commonable right. And those in the vicinity of the mountains have an almost unlimited extension of sheep-slight. The leaseholds are few, the rackrenters many, the estates chiefly what are termed small biddings, and the occupiers too poor, for much to be expected from this quarter, till the system of letting be changed, and the scale of occupancy enlarged. The poverty of the small farmers subjects them in one district, to neglect their land, and hire out the strength, which should perform the labour, necessary to its improvement, for the paltry, but present gain, procured by carrying slates from the quarries to Caernarvon quay: and in another by the precarious, and, at best, temporary advantages, afforded by the herring fishery.

The produce of the arable land is, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and some few turnips. The first kind of crop was long a stranger to this district; but where adequate fences have been formed, and the land properly prepared, this has been found to answer well. Barley is also grown more frequently, than formerly. Oats constitute the principal crop on the poorer lands. The prejudices of the farmers here, is strong against the advantageous practice of clover leys, and winter green crops, for early spring feed. And it must be allowed, that this opinion is in part justifiable, from the unprotected state of the lands in general, during those seasons of the year: and a similar reason will equally apply to the turnip culture.* The raising of that useful root, the potatoe, is coming into fashion; and several parts of the county grow considerable quantities. Previous to the year 1758, Mr. Pennant remarks, all the district of Nant Conwy was obliged to import this necessary article; and sub-

* Tour in Wales, Appendix, p. 448.

sequent to that period, as appears by the Custom books, it has been able to spare a large surplus for exportation. This has been the case in the district, adjacent to Caernarvon; which a few years since was necessitated to derive its supply from Lancashire; and such has been the extension of this kind of culture, that it is now enabled partially to furnish Liverpool, where Welsh potatoes obtain a preference in the market, for their superior flavour. The principal part of the lands are, however, under *pasturage*. And many of these are capable of multifarious, and great improvement: the first of which is,

Draining. On many lands, where the requisite descent for the purpose is manifest, the superfluous water is suffered to lie on, or near, the surface, till the roots are chilled, if not rotted; and the consequent produce is grass of a sour unnutritious quality. The removal of this sterilizing cause naturally presents itself to the beholder, as the previous necessary step, towards the amelioration of such estates. Some little draining is done; but the mode is altogether erroneous. The drains are too narrow for the purpose of carrying off the land-flood waters, and the fields are continually choaked up with the soil, deposited by the torrents, which during rainy seasons, descend from the hills. If underdraining in many instances be thought too expensive, then should the open drains be made much wider than at present; and sufficiently multiplied, to effect the desired purpose. The objection, that the peaty soils are of such a spungy quality, as to prevent the adoption of the practice recommended, with any prospect of success, because the sides would consequently swell, and coalesce; might easily be removed by the mode of their formation, viz. cutting the upper part of the drains double the breadth of the bottom, so as to leave the sides shelving: the form corresponding with the section of a truncated cone. These, regularly cleared, after floods, which would afford a proper employment for the mountaineers, who have little to occupy their time, during the winter months, would fully answer the end in view; and amply compensate the farmer, for the trouble and expence incurred. But a further difficulty to this part of

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rural economy is suggested, by the observation, founded no doubt in experience, that "peaty ground, if kept in a *dry* state, will produce little or nothing." This however might be obviated by

Irrigation. The watering or flooding of grass-lands, that greatest of all modern adopted improvements, in their management, might with facility be practised in almost every part of Caernarvonshire, by means of the numerous streams, that fall in every direction from the hills; as the labour and cost of diverting their waters, and occasionally, at proper seasons, letting them run over their lands: would be comparatively nothing, in the scale of the counter advantages, obtained. The turning them off, when the soil was sufficiently saturated, might be effected with nearly a similar paucity of trouble, particularly in the extensive district of Llyn, which is supplied with water ready for such disposal, through the whole, being watered, as Mr. Pennant, emphatically remarked, "by a thousand little rills." Some few farmers, sensible of the great benefits derivable from such a practice, have recently been induced to adopt it; but in these instances it is observable, the soil is only partially drained; and the water imperfectly distributed over the land. Still the good effects are visible by the verdure and luxuriance of the herbage.

As fattening cattle is not an object in rural economy, and like the sheep most of the milch kine, during spring and summer depasture the open commons or the cow-lights on the sides of the mountains, the inclosed meadows are regularly hained up, or reserved for crops of hay. These, where the land is occasionally manured, afford a tolerable produce; but in some cases, and those far too numerous, the crops are scanty, and the quality bad. Owing to the general coldness of the atmosphere amidst the hills, the harvest is generally late, and from the frequent rains, the gathering of them highly precarious; the hay often being spoiled before it can be housed. When a few fine days occur, the meads present a busy bustling scene of toilsome labour. The otherwise secluded scenes, are enlivened

by the numerous mountaineers, employed on these occasions. Some loading the drays, or sledges, others with horses, bearing panniers, and even men, women, and children carrying the hay away on their shoulders. Should the weather continue tolerably dry, yet uncertainty, and liability to damage, arise from another quarter. Whirlwinds or tornadoes, are not unusual, which are observed to commence, by a distant rumbling noise, then becoming louder and louder, the unwelcome visitors are perceived advancing up the cwms, and through the hollow ravines, whirling in a circular direction, and carrying in their vortices, fern, rushes, moss, slates, and the hay, if unprotected. To prevent the injury, which otherwise, might accrue from these hurricanes, they have recourse to an ingenious precaution, evidently taught by hard necessity, that of putting the grass, when cut, into very small cocks or heaps, and placing a broad flat stone, or slate, in an inclined position, over each. The same cogency of circumstances induces them to be very circumspect in the method of securing their hay, and other stacks. These are first thatched, by spreading thinly over them straw, coarse hay, or rushes: this covering is then fastened, not as in England with hazel rods, pegged down by spars, or double splinters, but with hay ropes, stretched horizontally at small distances from each other, and the intervals crossed by similar bands.* The whole looks like net-work, and exhibits a peculiar degree of neatness.

Stock. Almost every farmer has his land overstocked. That is, by the assistance of the mountain and other commonable pasture, he is enabled to keep a greater quantity of sheep and cattle, than the produce of the farm, or the provision of the home-sted will maintain through the winter: consequently he is, obliged to sell off a considerable portion, at the latter end of the year, for whatever price they will bring; that by a reduction of his stock, he may be able to find fodder for the remainder. Not, but it is probable each might keep double the quantity

* The same judicious mode of thatching is adopted in Cornwall and the Highlands of Scotland.

quantity, to what he usually does, during the estival months; but then, what can he do with them in the season, when his fodder is scarcely adequate to sustain half his present stock; and he has no hibernacula, no well screened sheds, to shelter an additional number, from the chilling effects of piercing winds and drifting snows, prevalent here in severe winters.*

The *horned cattle* of Caernarvonshire are in general much smaller, than those of Anglesea; and, when fatted off far inferior in weight; and therefore not in high esteem with the grazier, nor carcass butcher. They are however compact animals, short on the leg, proportionably deep in the body, and exhibit a pleasing symmetry. The colour is chiefly black, and the milch kine, are, for the most part, reputed what are termed good milkers.

The sheep are the ancient alpine sort, unadulterated, or unimproved by any foreign mixture, and form a distinct and very curious breed. They are, compared with the Cotswold, Leicester, or even Ryeland breeds, very diminutive animals; and far inferior in size to those of the adjacent county of Anglesea. Rather long legs, slender bodies, and concave-shaped necks, constitute the discriminating characteristics: and they have small and rather handsome faces. Some of them in symmetry resemble the *Marino* breed of Spanish sheep. Like the latter they are migratory, though not to an equal extent; travelling up to the mountains, during the summer months, and at the approach of winter descending to the low-land pastures. The wool

* The method of improving lands in this district, is so obvious, as scarcely to need pointing out. That is, fencing out a few acres of land, proportionate to the extent of each farm, with walls of a sufficient height, and form, to prevent sheep leaping over. This should receive proper culture, and be planted with winter-vetches, Scotch cabbages, and Norfolk, or Swedish, turnips. Then appropriate out-buildings should be erected, both for winter and summer use, so as to enable the farmer to increase and improve his stock. This, however, in the first instance, should be done by the proprietors of estates, to shew the advantages of such a kind of husbandry; because the visible good effects of any new plan of culture, are much more likely, than the most persuasive arguments, to insure its adoption.

wool is in general coarse, and of a short staple, although in many instances, that of the neck and shoulder possesses a considerable degree of fineness. It is, however, peculiarly adapted for the article into which it is chiefly manufactured, and as it has been remarked, "is of more extensive use, than the finest *Segovian* fleeces; for rich and poor, age and youth, health and infirmities, all confess the universal benefit of the flannel manufacture." This breed of sheep, from their size and shape, do not appear to have an inherent tendency in their nature to produce coarse wool; but the scantiness of their food in winter, and the ungenial cold to which, for want of proper shelter, they are necessarily exposed, during the inclement season, subjects the poor animals to that cachexy, arising from inanition, and the consequent infirmities; which must certainly powerfully operate to the deterioration of the fleece. For it has been manifested by experiments, that the more temperate the atmosphere, in which sheep are permitted to subsist, the finer is the staple of their wool.*

From their ranging mode of life, these sheep assume a very different character, and habitude, to those of an inclosed country. They roam wherever inclination leads, confined by no fences; and frequently, unattended by a shepherd, are obliged to have recourse to their own exertions, against their formidable enemies

* The fineness of staple, so peculiar to Spanish wools, has generally been attributed to the custom of making the sheep travel from pasture to pasture. But many permanent flocks in the vicinity of Segovia, in Arragon, and divers other parts of Spain, it has been observed, bear wool equally fine with the migratory ones. The nature of the soil and the climate conduce more, than any other causes, to produce this happy effect. The *equal temperature* which these animals experience both summer and winter, by their abiding, during the latter, in the southern plains, and valleys; and in the former, ranging the mountains of the north, together with the circumstance of their remaining in the open air night and day, have been supposed to contribute principally to the amelioration of the fleece.†

† See numerous judicious observations on this important subject in vol. IV. of a work, lately published by Longman and Co. entitled, "A View of Spain, &c." Translated from the French of Alexander de Laborde.

enemies, the foxes, who here assemble in troops; and the ravens and large birds of prey, who from necessity, in this grainless country, become carnivorous. The sheep themselves appear quite different animals: instead of assembling in large flocks, they form gregarious parties, generally consisting of ten or twelve; of which number, while feeding, one stands at a distance as sentinel, to give notice, of approaching danger. If the guard perceive any thing making towards the little flock, he turns and faces the enemy, and permits him to advance within about one hundred yards. If his appearance be hostile, and he continue to advance, the guard then warns the party by a shrill whistling noise, till they have all taken the alarm, when he joins them in the rear, and they all betake themselves to the more inaccessible parts of the mountains. Though this may appear an extraordinary account to those unacquainted with the prodigious instinctive powers of divers animals, powers wisely implanted for self preservation, and observant of their wild, or domestic habits, yet those of the shepherd's dog are no less conspicuous; and the following appropriate remarks illustrative of both.

"The excellency of these dogs renders sheep pens, in a degree, unnecessary. If sheep require to be looked over, or examined, as to be handled by the butcher, or to be dressed, or cleaned, though it may require an hour's confinement, they are driven into a corner, and kept pent up there, by one or more dogs, until the business be completed.

"If an experienced shepherd wish to inspect his flock, in a cursory way, he places himself in the middle of the field or piece they are depasturing, and, giving a whistle or a shout, the dogs and the *sheep* are equally obedient to the sound; the one flies from him with their swiftest speed, while the other, from every quarter, draw towards him in considerable haste, long before the dogs have time to approach them. The stragglers are driven in, by the circuitous route of the dogs; which keep flying round, from side to side, until the flock be gathered

round the shepherd, close enough, not only to be seen, but to be laid hold of, by him, if any thing wrong be suspected."*

Indeed in such estimation was this breed of dogs, when cattle constituted one of the grand sources of wealth to the country, that in the laws of Hywell Dda, the legal price set upon one, properly broke in, and trained, for conducting the flocks, or herds, out to the pasturage in the morning, and reconducting them home at night; was considered of equal value with an *ox*. viz. sixty denarii; while the price of the house dog, whether the property of the king, or a subject, was estimated at only four: and a sheep at the same sum. If any doubt arose, as to the genuineness of the breed, or his having been pastorally trained, then the owner and a neighbour were to make oath, that he went with the flocks, or herds in the morning, and drove them with the stragglers home in the evening.†

Numerous *goats* formerly used to be bred among the mountains, many of which were so far domesticated, as to be regularly milked; but their numbers have been for some time fast diminishing; and soon will they cease to be considered, as constituting part of a farmer's stock. The cause assigned is, that the goat is very destructive to hedges and plantations, by nibbling the tender shoots, and decorticating the trunks of young trees;‡ but this surely is not an admissible reason in a district, where no hedges, nor scarcely any plantations are to be found? To a mountain farmer he must certainly prove a valuable animal. In the first place his keep costs nothing; he is not erratic, like the sheep, seldom straying far from his usual haunts.

* Marshall's Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I. p. 266.

† Leges Wallicæ, p. 252.

‡ It cannot be denied, that these animals, as they live by browsing, have a natural propensity, to crop the tops of tender branches, and to peel off the bark of young trees. And from the injury they did to vineyards, arose the rationale of the custom, among some ancient nations, of offering up in sacrifice, a goat, as a victim to *Bacchus*. Hence also the British proverb "Nid Llysieuwraig ond gafr," no herbalist equal to the goat.

haunts. Even in the severest weather, he feels a disinclination to quit his native rocks; and during deep falls of snow, which prevent his reaching the heath and furze, he will contentedly feed on moss and lichens. The Welsh goats are far superior in size, and in the length and fineness of the hair, to those of most other countries; and in one instance, adduced by Mr. Pennant, the horns of a Cambrian he-goat measured three feet two inches in length, and three feet between the antlers, from tip to tip. These quadrupeds, however despicable in the rural economy of the modern Welsh farmers, contribute, where they are encouraged, in a variety of instances to the necessities of human life, as food, physic, clothing, and other multifarious uses. The kids through the autumn and winter months afford a cheap and plentiful fresh provision. The flesh of a castrated goat, *hyfyr*, when fatted, is esteemed excellent, and usually denominated rock venison. The haunches are frequently salted and dried, and this, called *coch yr ŵden*, is used in summer as a substitute for bacon. Goat skins are much used in the glove manufactories, and the finest ladies gloves are made of kid-leather. In the army it covers the horseman's arms, and carries the foot-soldiers clothes, and provisions.* The milk, exclusive of its use in making cheese, which affords a grateful repast to the mountaineers, is considered a succedaneum for that of the ass, and very salutiferous in cases of phtisis pulmonalis.† The suet also forms a valuable article, the candles made of it, being far superior in quality, to those composed of that obtained from sheep, or cattle. Nor are the horns without their use, being introduced by the sword and knife cutlers, as a substitute for buck's-horn in hilts to tucks, and handles to knives.

Swine. The native breed of pigs in this county is very similar,

* Were the Welsh and Scotch hills well stocked with goats, it might supersede the necessity of importing goat-hides from Russia, whence the furriers and skinners obtain their chief supply.

† Numbers of wild goats are, by the inhabitants of this county, hunted, or run down by dogs, in the mode, that deer are, and shot for the sake of the hides and tallow.

milar, to that of several districts in Ireland. They are a thin carcassed, tall, ill-shaped kind of animals, having long heads and large ears; meagre in their form, and so little inclined by nature to obesity, that they must generally be kept two years before there is a prospect of their fatting kindly. Some few of the best sort in the kingdom, the Berkshire, have recently been introduced; and it now remains with the farmers, to chuse whether they will persevere in retaining their present unprofitable breed, or adopt one, which will yield more advantage, by fatting at nine months old, than their old sort will, at triple, or quadruple that age.

Little corn being raised, few domestic fowls are kept, the county being supplied with poultry from Anglesea; as it also is with rabbits principally, from the extensive warrens, between Llanfeirian and Llanfaelog.

Several improvements in rural economy, already made, and others about to be accomplished, have been previously noticed; it remains only to observe, that an *Agricultural society* has been lately formed in the county, consisting of the nobility and principal land proprietors, which from the communications it must necessarily obtain, and the premiums it may award, will doubtless soon produce the most beneficial effects.

Two powerful obstacles, however, still remain to be removed, before the laudable objects of this society can rationally be placed in a train for accomplishment; or the patriotic wishes of its members, likely to find their realization. The one originates in the nature of a considerable portion of the property belonging to this district; and the other is a consequence, in the manner of its disposal; either in fee simple, copyhold, or rack-rent tenancy. By a descriptive view of the crown lands* it will be seen, that much of the landed property in the county is vested in the king, and enumerated among the sources of his ordinary revenue. This extensive tract, in its present

* An anonymous 4to. volume, entitled "Observations on the land Revenues of the Crown, published by Debrett, 1787.

present state, is of little use to the crown; and very unproductive to the subjects: when, by a prudent management, it might be rendered highly advantageous to both. For this purpose it is desirable a bill should be passed, making the regal claimeans the several demesnes, dispesable by sale. By a statute enacted in the twenty-second year of Charles the second, the king was enabled by letters patent, to grant fee farm rents, due in right of his crown or of his duchies of Lancaster, or Cornwall, except quit-rents, &c. to trustees; these were empowered to convey the same by bargain and sale to purchasers, who were equally empowered by such condition, to obtain recovery of such lands, in like manner, as the monarch himself might. For a time, however, persons of property were so very doubtful of the title, to alienations of this nature, that while these rents were exposed to sale for ready money, scarcely any were bought, and the greater portion remained on the hands of the trust. But impediments, arising to the liquidation of the regal debts from other quarters, occasioned many of the creditors, to resort to this mode of payment, as the most eligible in that exigent conjuncture. The quantity of property thus sequestrated from the crown, soon became alarmingly great, and excited the jealousy of the nation; which wisely judged, that if the ordinary sources of the crown revenues were obstructed, recourse would necessarily be had to extraordinary means, for raising supplies, to support the dignity of the kingly office. This occasioned frequent parliamentary interferences. After William the third had, under the existing authority, greatly impoverished his inheritable estates, an act was passed in the reign of queen Anne*, by virtue of which, all subsequent grants, or leases for a longer period, than thirty-one years; whether in tail, or reversion, except in cases of houses; were declared null and void. The usual rent, it was stipulated, should be reserved, unless where usage had founded an exemption; then a rent-service, one third of the clear annual value: and the tenant was made

* 4 Ann. Stat. 1. c. 7.

made liable to punishment, for the committal of waste. "The misfortune in this business, as Blackstone judiciously observes, is, the act was made too *late*, after almost every valuable possession of the crown had been granted away for ever, or else upon very long leases; but it may be of some benefit to posterity, when those leases come to expire*." Yet since his time, events have changed the nature of the case, and as so little of this species of property is retained, and that almost entirely unproductive, it becomes a question, whether it would not be a matter of sound policy, to alienate the remainder, for a valuable consideration? By two statutes, passed in the present reign, commissioners were appointed to inquire into the state and condition of his majesty's hereditary woods, forests, and land revenues, to dispose of fee-farm, and other unimproveable rents: a measure peculiarly adviseable, under all the subsisting circumstances. No reason whatever now appears to exist why therefore a sale should not take place in Caernarvonshire, and other parts of Wales. Perhaps it would be eligible, as many paramountships in the crown, comprise several other complicate manors, accumulated by conquest, forfeiture, or succession, formerly granted out by regal authority, and incidentally reverting to the same; to sever the distinct manors from the aggregate mass, and dispose of them separately; providing by a valuation in the sale, the divisional allotments, the property of the King, as quit rents, manorial rights, &c. Or to avoid difficulty, the crown by its agents might negociate as to these claims, in the first instance, with the respective freeholders. The scheme would raise a large sum of money, save a vast annual expence in the collecting of the regal rents, and prove an immediate, and permanent benefit to the country. By the state of property, above described, cultivation is checked, vegetation dwindles, the mountain pasture fattens no stock, worthy of notice, and frequently starves again, a considerable portion of what it breeds. Were the land once fairly and generally appropriated,

* Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. I. p. 286.

appropriated, encouragement would be afforded for planting: plantations would shelter, and warm the bleak ungenial wastes, and other consequent improvements soon introduce, an useful population. Urgent, in a legislative point of view, is the claim, and pressingly applicable the complaint, that "North Wales has not had the attention it merits; it possesses sea and land as other countries, but systems have interposed, to check these advantages. The uses of these lands, are in a manner forbidden to us, by a heavy coal duty, of no profit to the state, (which might be relieved by commutation,) which renders our vast depot of lime, and it may be added the numerous minerals, requiring fuel for their reduction, half useless; and the same shores of the same island seem to front each other, not as natural friends and fellow subjects; but as rancorous rivals, and jealous enemies;

"Littora littoribus contraria, fluctibus undas:"*

Another powerful, and mischief-working cause is, the unreasonable and impolitic method of letting farms, or small takings by *auction*. This is a most destructive practice, and loudly calls for immediate suppression. It has doubtless arisen from the frequent transfer of property in this district, by such a mode of sale: and the immediate management of estates, being too often confided to the discretionary power of attornies; who in general must be considered, professionally unacquainted with the practical value of the lands, they may have to let: and who cannot be supposed devoid of interest in the issue of such a mode of half compromise between landlord and tenant. Perhaps in certain cases, and under peculiar circumstances, the transfer of landed property by way of auction, might be eligible: but never can it be in cases of *letting* farms, for a year, nor a term of years. It may be said, that in selling an estate, an auction constitutes a suitable and convenient mode of disposal: the vendor obtains his price, either in money, or sufficient security,

* Yorke's Royal Tribes of Wales, p. 166.

previous to the delivery of seizin; and whether it be in fee simple, base tenure, or leasehold, the proprietor, or tenant faisant, is virtually exonerated. But in a rack rent, or yearly tenure, the case becomes widely different. The person, who is to pay his rent half-yearly, and placed under the necessity of submitting to various regulations, and bound by a number of covenants, and agreements, concomitants of such kind of tenancy, has a different part to act; and if possessed of agricultural knowledge, and inured to the patient habits of industry, essential to the conducting, with any prospect of success, an improvable farm; ought undoubtedly to have an indulgence, far beyond the mere prospect of the present day. In such a case, the *rent* should be a secondary consideration; the *man*, his capabilities, his competency, either arising from property, or energy, or both combined, should be the points for the determination of a landlord's selection of his tenant: if he wish to see the improveable estate improved. For it cannot have escaped the most superficial observer of farms, and their management, subject to such exorbitant enhanced rents, and great limitations, respecting to the usufructuage of the land; that little can reasonably be expected, without an extension of tenure, and a latitude, subject to certain conservative restrictions, as to general occupation. Under the present system the upright yeoman, or the industrious tenant stands no equal chance with the unprincipled small landholder, in the vicinity, or the theoretical speculist. It must be obvious, that among the numerous candidates, who appear at auctions, held for letting farms, are various descriptions of characters; some unfortunate men, who wish, and must find an asylum; others, who want judgment, and are over-persuaded to engage in the concern, because it is larger and a more respectable one, than that in which they had previously been engaged; and some, and those not a few, men of desperate fortunes, who in want of a temporary subsistence, or to cover an ill-conditioned concern, at a distance, will make an ephemeral show, and far outbid the man, whose experience is

good, and integrity sound. It is too obvious, too notorious to remark, that such men will be the highest bidders in these mountain marts, and will consequently be preferred, from the conditions of sale, to those, who by their capital might have insured the rent, or by their practical information and patriotic desire, would, but for the absurd mode in question, have doubtlessly lent the conjoint aid of their abilities and property, for the amelioration of the estates. Men, who are likely regularly to pay their rent, attend to necessary covenanted, or uncovenanted repairs; endeavour under proper encouragement to improve the land: these are the tenants, which should be selected by judicious managers of landed property—such ought to meet with every suitable encouragement, and after long and successful tenancy, be enabled in their leasehold renewals to leave as a boon, extracted from their labours and exertions, a noble, because the meed of industry, patrimony, to their posterity. The annual value of farms is easily ascertained, according to situation, the price of produce, the facility of bringing it to a market, and the current relative price; and no person ought to be entrusted with any land, much less the management of an estate, who is not fully competent to ascertain its intrinsic and comparative value; and after having ascertained that value, by moderate estimation, does not prefer a person of judgment, and capital to any *nominal rent*, offered by unprincipled or erroneous speculation. "It may be said with little latitude, that in the end it is equally detrimental to an estate, to over-rent it, as it is to let it beneath its fair rental value. This is an axiom of management which is well known to every man of landed property, who has persevered in paying attention to his own affairs; and which has cost some men no small share of property, respectability, and peace of mind, to come at the knowledge of*."

Bridges and roads. Though Caernarvonshire can boast of

* Marshall's Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I. p. 75.

no navigable river, except a partial claim to the Conwy, that forms its eastern boundary; yet it is watered by numerous streams, which, when swelled by mountain torrents, require bridges for carrying over the roads, to be of greater length, than would be otherwise requisite over similar rivulets in a champagne country. This elongation is obtained in two ways, by extending the span, or chord of a single arch, or continuing the structure in the manner of a regular, or irregular arcade. Thus diversified in their shapes, and chiefly erected not at right angles with the margin, but in an oblique direction, they constitute very ornamental objects in the scenery of the district. The art pontifical, or that of bridge building, seems very generally diffused through Wales, and almost every common mason in this country understands the principles of construction. Among many others, for bridges have almost precluded the necessity of fords, may be enumerated, Pont Seiont, Pont Newydd, Pont Dolbadern, Pont Aber-glas-llyn, Pont y Gwyrid, Pont y Pair, Pont Dalgarrog, Pont Porth Llwyd, Pont Sychnaut, Pont Aber, Pont Legid, &c. &c.

The roads of this district, from having been perhaps the worst, are now, if not the best, at least equal to any in the principality. The road from Conway to Bangor, fifteen miles, over the immense mountainous, and alarming pass of Penmaen mawr is too well known, to be particularly noticed here: as is also the twelve miles of beautifully scenic road, along the western margin of the river, swelled with "the foaming flood" of Gray, from Llanrwst to Conway. But the improvement it has experienced within a very few years in this particular, is truly surprising; and reflects the highest credit upon the munificence, public spirit, and judicious conduct of the nobility and gentry of the county. An excellent road, almost upon a level, extends from Caernarvon to Beddgelert, a space of twelve miles. This is met by one, coming from the westward; commencing at Tre-Madoc, and passing through the beautiful and romantic vale of Nant Hwynant, in a north easterly direction, coalesces

with another proceeding from the north at Capel Cerrig*. This road has been formed under the auspices of Mr. Madocks, and the portion of it from Tre-Madoc to Pont Aber-glas-llyn, affords a striking instance of what may be accomplished by the combined powers of science, capital, and persevering industry. Previous to the construction of this road, the way to Criccieth and the southern parts of the county was either by a circuitous route over the mountains, or along the sands of the Traeth mawr, impassable when the tide was in, and dangerous when it was out. The almost perpendicular rocks, that form the north western boundary of the Traeth, have been assailed by gunpowder, and an excellent road has been carried, as it were like a shelf, along the sides of the cliffs, above high water mark, and where necessity pointed out, is also defended by a wall.

What Mr. Pennant describes, as in his time "the most dreadful horse path in Wales, worked in the rudest manner into steps for a great length," has since by the enterprising and generous spirit of the late Lord Penrhyn, been converted into an excellent carriage road, which now forms the most frequented thoroughfare to, and from Ireland†. Exclusive of the distance, being by the line shortened ten miles, this road becomes inviting to the traveller, from the grandeur of the scenery, and the multifarious improvements, effected by the energetic genius of the late noble owner of Penrhyn, in the formerly desolate tract of Nant Francon. The new portion of the road commences at the village of Llandegai, near Bangor, passes by Capel Cerrig to Bettws-y-coed, where leaving the county, it proceeds to Pentre Voelas, in the county of Denbigh: an extent of twenty four miles. The leading trait to these wonderful improvements, and probably the inducive cause, that roused the long dormant

* This is the usual orthography; but recently *Curig*, the name of the patron saint to whom the church is suppositiously dedicated, has been substituted in writing.

† The mail coach from London to Holyhead, through Shrewsbury, which used to pass by Llanrwst and Conway, has for some time run along this road, as well as the heavy coach.

spirit of local amelioration, was, the new road, constructed from Caernarvon to Pwllheli, which made visibly manifest the valne of a portion of country, previously little frequented, and less thought of. Itinerant trade, which had almost exclusively terminated at the former, now regularly extends to the latter, place by a tolerable carriage road having been taken in the most eligible direction for a distance of twenty miles.

Another road was at the same time projected, to form a communication between Caernarvon and Llanrwst by way of Capel Cerrig, over Bwlch yr Eisteddfa, or Gorphwysfa, through Nant Peris, on the western side of the lakes to Caernarvon. A portion of this, as far as the new slate quarries, in the parish of Llanrûg, has already been constructed: and as another act is about to be obtained, for enlarging the powers of the old, which will expire in 1811, respecting new branches of turnpike road, there is not a doubt, but the remainder will soon be completed. This line will diminish the distance of road between the above-mentioned places, even compared with that by the vale of Nant Francon, six miles, in twenty eight: besides the advantages that would accrue to estates in the vicinity of Nant Peris, and Nant Hwynant.

Another road was lately proposed, to pass from Tre-Madoc, in a diagonal line, across the peninsular part of the county, to Porth yn Llyn, near the town of Nevin; and to communicate with the Merionethshire roads by a new embankment across the Traeth mawr; and thus opening a communication between London, and this part of Caernarvonshire, by way of Dolgelleu. An act, which among other subjects embraced this plan, was obtained in the year 1806; but till the embankment be finished, though much has been done, it cannot be expected this should find a thorough completion.

Trade and Manufactures. Caernarvonshire possesses very little internal trade, and for centuries has been a stranger to manufactures. Its commercial concerns were, till very lately confined to the port of Caernarvon, and its collateral dependencies; but from the spirited conduct of the late Lord Penrhyn, and

and Mr. Smith, a considerable trade has been carried on in the article of *slates*. A few years since the wool of the county, except what was home-spun, and custom-wove, was sold in a raw state, and sent to be manufactured in different parts of the kingdom. But the technic spirit of improvement has recently been extremely active; several manufactories, containing various machinery, have lately been erected; to which the superabundant supply of water at all seasons of the year, affords both power and facility for conducting the diverse manipulations. In the parishes of Llanrûg, Llanwnda, &c. &c. scribbling and carding engines, with Jennies and Billies for luffing and spinning, have been set up, which prepare the woollen or worsted yarn for hire; and in some cases it is manufactured into cloth. A very large manufactory has lately been erected at Tre-Madoc for the weaving druggets and coarse army cloth; and the example will probably be followed in a way, that will soon evince to a county of such capabilities, that, in conjunction with other improvements, much remains to be done, to ascertain the extent of its intrinsic value. A paper-mill has been set up in the former parish, and at present is the only one in this department of North Wales.

Civil divisions, &c. Caernarvonshire is, for ecclesiastical government, comprehended in the diocese of Bangor, and province of Canterbury: and for the administration of justice placed in the North Wales circuit, including the three counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth. The assizes are attended by two justices, one in eyre, and one in adjuvante. By virtue of the annexation of the principality to the kingdom of England, and consequent legal union with the country, as to usages, privileges, and forms of proceeding, by an act passed in the thirty-fourth year of Henry the eighth, Wales was divided into twelve counties, and those subdivided into four precincts, or circuits. Over each of which the presiding judge was allowed an annual salary of fifty pounds a year. Subsequently, by an act of parliament, made in the reign of Elizabeth,*

* Stat. 18. cap. 8.

one other justice assistant was ordained, to attend the sessions with the former appointed justices; so that now, each of the said circuits have two judges, viz. one chief, and the other the assistant justice. According to the ancient division of Wales, as established by the juridical code of Hywel Dda, a *cantref* comprised two *cwmmwds*, comots, or wapentakes, a cwmmwd twelve manors, and each manor four townships. The following division of Caernarvonshire is given by two writers of great eminence and weight in the affairs of Cambria. "The second part of North Wales was called Arfon, which is as much as to say, over against Môn; and had in it four cantreds, and ten comots. *Cantref Aber* had in it three comots, Y Lhechwed huchaf, Y Lhechwed-isaf and Nant-Conway. *Cantref Arfon* had two comots, Ywch Gwyrfai, and Is Gwyrfai. *Cantref Dunodic* had two comots Arduduwy and Efionyth. *Cantref Lhyn* containeth three comots, Cymytmayn, Tinlhayn, and Canologion. This is now called Caernarvonshire, as Môn is called Angleseyshire, and have the same division at this day."* The county at present is divided into ten divisions, commonly called hundreds, viz. *Creyddyn, Isaf. Uchaf, Nant Conway, Isgwrfai, Efionedd, Uchgwrfai, Dinlaen, Gafflogion,* and *Cwmmwd maen.* It contains one city, Bangor, the county and borough town of Caernarvon, and four other market towns, viz. Aberconway, Nevin, Criccieth, and Pwllheli, and sixty-eight villages.

Little now presents itself as to *honorial* history. The county town gives the title of earl to a younger branch of the noble and distinguished house of *Pembroke*, the brief history of which would require volumes to narrate. The family originally was of Welsh descent. *Thomas ap Gwillim ap Jenkin*, in the reign of Richard the Second, married Maud, daughter of Sir John Morley of Ragland Castle in Monmouthshire. Sir William ap Thomas, his son, had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him, for his valour in the French wars, by Henry the Fifth. His issue assumed the name of *Herbert*. From the second son, Sir Richard Herbert of Colebrook, were descended the Herberts of

* Price's Description of Cambria, edited by Humphry Lloyd, p. 1.

of Cherbury; of which family was the historical, philosophical, and right whimsical peer, Edward Herbert, the first baron of Cherbury. Of the primary branch, William, the eldest son of Sir William ap Thomas, was created earl of Pembroke, in the eighth year of Edward the Fourth. From him descended that able statesman, great scholar, and eminent soldier, William earl of Pembroke, whom Camden describes as "an extraordinary man, who was in some sort the raiser of his own fortune." He flourished under four princes of different aspects, and in difficult times. Thomas the eighth earl made the celebrated collection of statues, that still continue to attract the attention of the virtuosi to *Wilton house*. The honourable William Herbert, fourth son of this Thomas, by Margaret, only daughter, and sole heiress of Sir Robert Sawyer, knt. of Highclere in Hampshire, attorney-general to Charles the Second, inherited his mother's estates at Highclere; and died a major-general in the army, in the year 1757; leaving several children, of whom Henry the eldest survivor, was created lord Porchester, October 17, 1780; and *earl of Caernarvon*. July 3, 1793.

Gwydir gives the title of baron to the family of *Burrell*. Peter Burrell, of Langley Park, near Beckingham in Kent, married lady Priscilla Barbara Elizabeth, sister and co-heiress of the late duke of Ancaster, and who was confirmed, in her own right, baroness Willoughby de Eresby. On the trial of Warren Hastings he officiated as deputy great chamberlain of England, and on that occasion received the honour of knighthood. On the death of Sir Merrick Burrell, bart. in 1787, he collaterally succeeded to the baronetage; and May 28, 1796, was created *lord Gwyder*, of Gwyder, in Caernarvonshire.

This county, from the twenty-seventh year of Henry the Eighth's reign, has had the privilege of sending two members to parliament, viz. one for the shire, and one for the county town. The elective franchise, in the former case, belongs to the freemen at large; in the latter, the right of election is vested in the burgesses of Caernarvon, Criccieth, Pwllheli, Nevin, and Conway. By the returns, made to government under

under the population act, the number of houses was 8433, and inhabitants 41,520, viz, 19,586 males, and 21,935 females: of which number 4234 were represented as employed in various branches of trade, and 12,808 as occupied in husbandry. It pays one part of the land-tax, and provides one hundred and twenty men* to the national militia, exclusive of the local. The gross amount of the property-tax appears by the returns made in 1806, to have been 131,800l. and the annual sum raised for the maintenance of the poor 9137l. forming an average of four shillings and three farthings in the pound raie.

In addition to its honorial distinctions, and elective franchises, the ancient and peculiar privileges of this district may be considered worthy of narration. They are denominated the "*Breinniau gwyr Arfon*;" or The privilege of the men of Arfon. These were granted by Rhun ap Maelgwyn, who succeeded his father in the government of North Wales, A D. 560. This prince, who resided at Caerhûn, and was engaged in long and sanguinary warfare with the Northumbrian Saxons, as a boon for eminent services, granted several favours and immunities to the inhabitants of Caernarvonshire, on account of their good conduct, and having been detained so long absent from their wives and families, in the northern expedition. The following curious account of these privileges, fourteen in number, and the occasion of their having been conferred, are extracted from the copy of the Laws of Hywel Dda, in the library belonging to the Welsh school, Gray's Inn-Lane, London.† From this valuable document, it appears, that the Welsh females, though characterized by a considerable portion of the simplicity of manners, peculiarly eminent in ancient Greece, were not possessed of the like unassailable chastity with such ladies as Penelope.

"In

* 42 George III. cap. 90. The author here avails himself of the earliest opportunity of correcting an error, that inadvertently crept into the general account of the principality, respecting the militia. The account there given was, among other legal information, furnished by a respectable barrister. "Decipimur specie recti."

† Cambrian Register for 1796, p. 300.

"In a certain period was slain Elidyr the courteous, a person from the north: and after he was killed, the men of the north came here to revenge him. That is to say, the men who came as leaders for them were Clydno Eidyn, and Nudd the generous, son of Senyllt, and Mordav the generous, son of Serven, and Rhydderch the generous, son of Tudawal Tudglyd; and they came to Arvon. And, as Elidyr was slain at Abet Mewedus in Arvon, they burnt Arvon in excess of revenge. Thereupon Rhun, the son of Maelgon, prepared for war, and the men of Gwynedd with him; and they came to the side of Gweryd in the north; and there they were long disputing who ought to go in the van through the river Gweryd. Upon which Rhun dispatched a messenger as far as Gwynedd, to know who had a right to the lead. Some declared, from Maeldav the elder, chieftain of Penardd, and adjudged it to the men of Arvon; Jerwerth, the son of Madog, by the authority of history, maintains it, from Idno the old, to the men with the black-pointed shafts; and thereupon the men of Arvon went in the van, and they behaved well there; and so Taliesin sung:

"Cyglau wrth wres eu llanen
Gan Rán yn rudhor bydynau
Gwyr Arfon rydyon yn rydiheu."

Behold amid the heated blades
Where, red with blood in fields of death
Arfan's warriors pant for breath.

And then from the length of time that they tarried in the warfare, their wives slept with their bond-servants; and therefore Rhun gave them fourteen privileges.

The first, priority over a wife: that is, priority in the choice of the horses, and his swine, and his geese; and a car, with two oxen, that he likes of his cattle: and the car full of the furniture, that he may like.

The second is, to have the lead of Gwynedd in warfares.

The third is, that he shall not pay the damage of his animal.

The

The fourth is, to fix the boundaries of the districts that shall join to Arvon.

The fifth is, if there should be a dispute between two townships, out of the nine townships, that are in Arvon, the seven shall end the dispute of the two, without the interference of any from elsewhere.

The sixth, that there shall be no serjeant therein.

The seventh, that there be liberty of fishing, in common in the three rivers which are there.

The eighth,

The ninth, that they shall not be obliged to use the nearest mill.

The tenth, that they shall not drink half-fermented liquor.

The eleventh, that there is no advantage to be taken of their pleadings before the third word of error.

The twelfth, there shall be no payment towards the horses of guests, or of persons on circuit.

The thirteenth, that they shall not be obliged to go to another lodging out of the hall.

The fourteenth, whoever shall be settled therein for a year and a day, if he should be an undomiciliated person, he shall have the same rights as a person of the country.

And if there shall be any one who shall call in question any of these privileges, the brotherhood of Bangor and those of Beuno, shall maintain them.

These are differently worded in a Welsh manuscript (about 1000 years old) intitled the "Triades of the isle of Britain." Two of the privileges have been obliterated, the remaining twelve are as follow:

1. That the husband should have priority over his wife in the choice of horses, swine, and geese, and in the choice of two oxen of the cattle, and a cart load of household utensils.

2. That the men of Arvon should lead the vanguard of the army of North Wales.

3. That their beasts should be free from toll.

4. That

4. That they should settle the boundaries of all the hundreds joining upon Arvon.

5. If any variance happened between two of the nine manors of Arvon, that the remaining seven, without the interference of any others, should end the strife.

6. That there should be no beadle or bailiff in their hundred.

7. That the men of Arvon should have the right of fishing in the three principal rivers which are in it.

8. That they should not be tied to the hand mill,*

9. That in their proceedings at law there should be no delay.

10. That they should not be obliged to pay for the horses of strangers, or of the minstrels on their annual circuits.

11. That when they come to the palace of the prince, they ought not to go out for their lodging.

12. That whoever settled in Arvon, and lived within it for a year and a day, even though he were an alien, should have all the liberties of an inborn or denizen."

CAERNARVON,

Is a place early distinguished in the annals of history. The *Segontium* of the Itinerary was the only station the Romans possessed in this part of Cambria; and a few detached out-posts, the communications between which are visible in fragments of their roads, still mark the progress and extent of the imperial eagle. The site of the ancient city a short distance from the present town, and intersected by the turnpike road, affords a high treat to the antiquary. The shape is an oblong square, or parallelogram; comprising a space of about seven acres, on the summit of a small elevation. Some vestiges of walls are still remaining, and in one part was lately discovered the remnant of a building

* The meaning of this is, that they should not be compelled, as slaves, to grind corn at the hand-mills of the princes, or great men.

a building, constructed with tiles covered with smooth plaistering, supposed to have been an *hypocaust*. Near the declivous bank of the Seiont was a strong fort, to secure a landing place from the river, at the time of high water. This was also of an oblong shape, including an area of about one acre. Two sides have the walls nearly intire. One is in length seventy four yards, the other sixty four; the height from eleven to twelve feet; and the thickness six. A considerable portion of the stone facing having been removed, for the purposes of building, the peculiarity of Roman masonry becomes very appparent. The Romans constructed their buildings after a different method from the one in use at present. First they placed the stones upon each other according to plastic order, generally in alternate courses; the one regular, or horizontal, and the other zigzag, or herring-bone fashion. Boiling mortar, that is, mortar made with new slacked lime, was then poured npon the stones, which by the fluidity insinuated itself into all the interstices of the work; and thus by its tenacious contactive adherence bound the irregular pieces of stone into one compact solid mass; inseparable, but by a force adequate to demolish the whole: the cement becoming equally hard and durable as the stone. Along the walls passing through the intire thickness, in parallel lines run three rows of circular holes, about three inches in diameter. Similar holes are discoverable at the ends of the walls extending lengthwise. Much conjectural learning has been displayed in endeavouring, to ascertain the original design and use of these apertures. According to the opinion of some antiquaries, they were made for the purpose of discharging arrows, or other missile weapons, at an enemy. But the length and contractedness are silencing objections against such an opinion. Whitaker observes*, that by chance he met with a hole of this kind, that was accidentally laid open from end to end, on a Roman wall, which he thought disclosed the design of the rest. He supposes, that, as the Romans carried upwards their ramparts,

* History of Manchester.

parts, they by making holes, and forming small arches in their walls, took off from the pressure on the parts below; and thus gave strength and durability to the whole. This could not be the case at Segontium: the openings are too narrow, and too far distant to afford any bearing relief. Others have supposed, the purpose was for fixing the horizontal poles, on which were erected the scaffolds for the accommodation of the masons; and left unfilled up, by accident, or design. It is however an allowable conjecture, that they were formed for the admission of air into the interior of the work, to harden the liquid cement, poured in; and thus giving it greater stability. Near the corner of one of these walls, is a heap of stones, which once formed a circular bastion tower; and from foundations discovered in digging, there appears to have originally been one at each angle.

This place was manifestly connected with Constantine; and from a stone found in a subterraneous vault, inscribed S. V. C*. is supposed to have been once his residence. In Welsh it is called *Caer Custeint*, or the city of Constantius†; Rowland's remarks, in his scheme of succession for the regal government of Wales, that Constantius, to secure himself on the British throne, endeavoured to form a family alliance with *Coel Godhebog*, in whom at that time, by virtue of the pendragonate, centred the united rights of the most powerful monarchs in the island. With this view he requested and obtained in marriage *Tiboca*, the daughter of the British king: and that she, in Latin called *Helena*‡, was the mother of the son and successor of Constantius,

* A gold coin, equivalent to seventeen shillings was found amid the ruins, inscribed T. Divi Aug. Fil. Augustus.

† In the fields south east of the camp, Sir Richard Colt Hoare discovered several pieces of fine red glazed Roman pottery.

‡ Mona Antiqua, Vol. p. 162. Mr. Gibbon observes, "Notwithstanding the recent tradition, which assigns for her father a British king, we are obliged to confess, that Helena was the daughter of an innkeeper. On which he thus animadverts in a note. This tradition unknown to the cotemporaries of Constantine,

Constantius, Constantine the great. The author "of Flores Historiarum" informs us, that the father of that emperor was interred here; and in the reign of Edward the first, A. D. 1283, the body was found in digging, and honourably re-interred in the adjacent church*: although in another part of the same work, it is stated, that Constantius died at York. A chapel is also said to have been founded here by Helen, the daughter of Octavius, duke of Cornwall; and wife of Maximus, first cousin of Constantine, who was born at Segontium†. This was standing within the last century, and a well, by the fort still retains the name of that princess, near which are strewed considerable ruins.

Segontium was for a long time the residence of the British princes. Cadwallo, the son of Cadfan appears to have first fixed the court at this place. The security and plenty of provisions it afforded, induced the sovereign, involved in almost perpetual warfare, to place their families in safety here; while they pursued their military career for the annoyance of the enemy and the defence of their own territories. About the period in question, the Irish and Pictish rovers were extremely troublesome to the western coasts of Britain; particularly Anglesea, which was much less defensible, than the sea-front of Caernarvonshire. But these causes having been subsequently removed, the royal seat was again fixed at Aberfraw where it had originally been placed by Caswallon Law-hir in the fourth century‡.

The present Caernarvon, which derives its appellation from *Caer*, a fortress, *yn*, in, and *Arfon*, the district opposite Môn, or Anglesea, that is the strong hold in Arfon; has generally been supposed to have originated in the time of Edward the first. But

stantine was invented in the darkness of monasteries, was embellished by Jeffrey of Monmouth, and the writers of the XIIth century, has been defended by our antiquarians of the last age, and is seriously related in the ponderous History of England, compiled by Mr. Carte," Decline and fall of the Roman Empire. Vol. II. p. 165.

* Mona Antiqua, p. 165.

† Mona Antiqua, p. 149.

But it was in being, long previous to that period, and was probably the British town, that subsisted under the protection of the Romans, what is now considered the ancient Segontium having been exclusively confined to the use of the Roman military. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions passing through it in the year 1188;* the author of the life of Gryffydd, the son of Cynan observes, that Hugh earl of Chester, who had dethroned the Welsh monarch, and over-run nearly the whole of North Wales, to secure his conquests and facilitate future inroads, erected four fortresses; one at Aberllienawg in Anglesea, another in Meirion, a third at Bangor, and a fourth at this place, then denominated *Hên Caer Custenni*†. Llewelin the great also dates a charter, granted to the priory of Penmon, from it, in the year 1221. The probability therefore is against the idea of the present town having been a creation of the conqueror. To a judicious and able warrior like Edward, however, the place presented a situation admirably adapted for constituting a fortified post, for the purpose of curbing his newly acquired country. The position was naturally strong, bounded on one side by the Menai straits, on another by the estuary of the Seiont, on a third by a creek of the Menai, and the remainder has been apparently insolated by art. This fortress, it has been justly observed, from whatever point, or from whatever distance it is viewed, assumes a romantic singularity of appearance, and an air of grandeur, that while it excites awe, affords pleasure to the beholder; and some of its noble walls, going fast to decay, excite a melancholy sigh, at the dilapidating powers of hoary-headed time.

Caernarvon castle forms an era in the history of this part of the country. After the completion of his conquest, Edward the first, in 1283, undertook the great work, which still remains a proof of his achievements. It is said to have been built within the space of *one year*. This will not appear surprising, notwithstanding the magnitude of the building, when it is taken

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p 83.

† Vita Griff. fil. Conani

into consideration, that the chieftains of the country had the painful task, imposed upon them, to procure artisans and labourers, and to find money to liquidate the expences of the work. A record, however, formerly belonging to the exchequer of Caernarvon states, that it was *twelve* years in building, and the revenues of the archbishoprick of York, which had for the purpose been kept vacant, were applied toward defraying the expences of its erection. *Henry Ellerton*, or *de Elreton*, received the appointment of master mason to this castle; a term in that day, equivalent to architect in ours: under whom were doubtless employed numbers of excellent workmen: for Mr. Pennant justly observes, "the Welsh peasants were no more than cutters of wood and hewers of stone." The walls of Segontium afforded a portion of the materials; Anglesea furnished the lime-stone, and the breccia was brought from the vicinity of Vaenol. The conveyance of these ponderous materials was greatly facilitated by the navigation of the Menai.

The first who received the high responsibility, attached to the care of this important fortress, was *John de Havering*, with an annual salary of two hundred marks, out of which sum, he was to maintain a force of fourscore men, fifteen of them cross-bowmen, a chaplain, surgeon, and smith; the residue were to do the duty of watch and ward. The establishment, however, was subsequently different, and is thus detailed by Sir John Doddridge. "The constable of the castle of Caernarvon, his fee was uncertain, sometimes 60l. and sometimes but 40l. The captain of the town of Caernarvon, his fee was yearly 12l. 3s. 4d. and sometimes one man had both the offices of constable of the castle and captain of the town, having 60l. yearly for both the offices. There were allowed sometime unto the said constable, and captain, 24 soldiers, for the safe custody of the castle and town, and every of them was allowed 4d. per diem, amounting in the whole unto 146l. by the year. The porter of the gates of the said town of Carnarvon whose fee was yearly 3l. 10d*."

Edward

* An historical account of the ancient and modern state of the principality of Wales, p. 56.

Edward probably made his distinguished favourite Sir *Roger de Puleston*, afterwards constable; who in 1284 had been appointed sheriff, and keeper of Anglesea, and resided at a mansion in this town, called after his name, Plas Puleston. For in the year 1294, having been commanded to levy a subsidy for the French war, a new impost with which the Welsh had till then been unacquainted, they flew to arms, and seizing on Sir Roger, caused him to be hanged, and then decapitated the body; a similar fate attended all his associates, concerned in the collection of the odious tax*. Soon after, the insurgents, whom Leland styles *Nivicollini*†, under their leader Madoc, an illegitimate son of the unfortunate prince Llewelyn, during a fair in the month of July, attacked Caernarvon, and, on its surrender, massacred all the English inhabitants in cold blood: at the same time setting fire to the place. Nor was it repossessed by the English, till the king had in person taken the command of his army‡. Very few events have been narrated, respecting this fortress, posterior to that period. In the year 1402, the town was blockaded by a party of insurgents, under the direction of Owen Glyndwr; which was bravely defended for king Henry, by *Jevan ap Meredydd*‡, to whom with *Meredydd ap Hwlkin Llwyd, of Glynllifon*, under the command of an English captain, had been committed, the custody of the castle. On this occasion, so closely was the place invested, that it was found expedient to carry the corpse of *Jevan*, who died during the siege, by sea, round the peninsular part of the country, for interment, at Penmorfa. On the breaking out of the civil wars Caernarvon was seized, in behalf of the Parliament, by *Captain Swanley*, who, in 1644, took, on the surrender of the town, four hundred prisoners, and a very considerable quantity of arms, and ammunition. The royalists, however, appear to

* In 1289 *Adam de Wetenhall* held the distinguished office.

† Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 405.

‡ Owen had previously, for Jevan's adherence to the Lancastrian cause had subjected to conflagration his mansions of Cefn y Fan, and Cesail gyfarch.

have been soon in repossession, for in 1646, it was besieged by the troops under generals Mytton, and Langhorn, to whom it was surrendered upon honourable conditions by the governor, *Lord Byron*. In 1648, General Mytton was in turn besieged in the town, by a small force under that eminent loyalist, Sir John Owen; but having received intelligence, that *Colonels Carter and Twisselton*, were marching with a superior army, to relieve the place, he raised the siege, and marched to meet the rebels. Near Llandegai, a furious rencontre ensued, in which Sir John was defeated, and made prisoner; after which disastrous event, the whole of North Wales submitted to the Parliamentarian authority.

The following curious letter shews the griping hand of Republican policy, and exhibits at the same time the mild and benevolent character of Fairfax.

From Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX *to* THOMAS GLYNNE, *Governor of Caernarvon Castle, dated Dec. 4th*, 1647.

" SIR,

" I understand that since I sent you down to Caernarvon Castle, there hath been several somes of monie leavied by you upon ye county, in a far greater proportion then that countie doth pay towards ye assessments of ye army. Many of ye inhabitants have been imprisoned, and much offence given thereby, under pretence of authorities from me, by my desiring that care may be taken of yt garrison, which was not intended by me yt any oppression should be exercised upon the county. I therefore desire you yt for ye future ye like may be forborne, yt no monie be leavied in any way but by immediate ordinance of Parliament, and yet notwithstanding that garrison may not be unprovided for, I do think fit that the assessments paid by that countie for the payment of the 600l. per mensem, shall goe towards ye satisfaction of ye soldiers, which for the present you keep in that garrison, which I conclude, well husbanded, will be sufficient for that service. I remain,

" Your assured friend,

" THOMAS FAIRFAX."

The

The property of the castle is still vested in the crown. Formerly it was held by the Wynnes of Glynllifon, and Gwydir; then by the Bulkeleys of Baron Hill; afterwards by the Mostyns of Gloddaeth, and at present, by the *earl of Uxbridge*. The external walls of this castle are almost intire, and exhibit nearly the shape of the building, as it was in the time of the royal founder. It occupies a large space at the west end of the town, and was a place of such strength, that prior to the introduction of artillery in warfare, might have defied almost any portion of force, to accomplish its subjugation. On two sides it was environed by water, and on the margin was an embattled terrace. The third side was evidently defended by a foss, which probably extended round the fourth. The walls are from eight to ten feet thick, and have within their thickness, a narrow gallery, with convenient oeillets, or slips, for the discharge of arrows at the assailants. Above the embattled parapet, ascend in majestic grandeur, numerous turreted towers, not uniform, but pentagonal, hexagonal, and octagonal in their shape. Two of these are more lofty, than the rest. The *Eagle tower*, so called, from a figure of that bird, carved in stone, forming part of its ornaments,* has the addition of three elegant turrets issuing from the top, and is remarkably beautiful. The principal entrance into the castle is peculiarly grand, beneath a massy tower, on the front of which is a statue of *Edward*, in a menacing posture, with a sword half drawn in his hand, apparently threatening death and destruction to his newly-acquired,

* This figure is supposed to be of Roman fabrication, and it is said to be found by Edward on one of the towers at Segontium. Jupiter is fabled to have borne an eagle on the top of his standard, after the auspicious issue of his expedition against the Titans, which had been previously augured by the flight of an eagle to him, in his camp. In imitation of the Deity, princes adopted the use of a similar figure on their sceptres. Amongst the Persians the eagle was the ornament of their military standard, and hence came the custom among the Romans, to bear an eagle in the field, not as at present, displayed upon a banner, but in an image upon the top of a spear. A custom that has been followed by the ambition of Napoleon, emperor of the French.

quired, yet still restive, and reluctant subjects. This gate, by the remaining grooves, evidently was defended by four portcullises. The area within is oblong, but of an irregular shape, and was formerly divided into two parts, forming an outer, and inner court. The internal part of this stupendous monument of ancient grandeur is much more dilapidated, than would be expected from viewing the outside; many of the buildings lie in ruinous heaps, and the rooms, contained within the towers, are mere skeletons. What are called the state apartments, appear to have been extremely commodious, lighted by spacious windows, with elegant tracery. These externally exhibit a square front, but internally are all polygonal; some of the sides having been formed out of the thickness of the walls. A gallery, or covered way appears to have extended completely round the interior of the castle, forming a general communication with the whole of the building: of this about seventy yards is nearly intire. The gate through which the truly duteous, and affectionate Eleanor, wife of the conqueror, made her political entry into this proud pile, destined to convert independence into submission, called the Queen's Gate, is considerably above the level of the present ground; and probably was passable only by means of a draw-bridge, over the moat, or foss. It was defended by two portcullises. The staircase to the eagle tower is the only one remaining complete, and from the summit is an extensive view of the surrounding country and the isle of Anglesea. "Edward the second," says Mr. Pennant, "was born in a little *dark* room in this tower, not twelve feet long, nor eight in breadth: so little did, on those days, a royal consort consult either pomp or conveniency."* On a view of this little *dark* room, which, from its having the accommodation of a fire-place, appears to have been a dressing closet, the smallness will strike the beholder at once, with the improbability of its having been prepared for the royal accouchment. The adjoining central spacious chamber on the same floor, was most probably, the one destined, by the

* Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 406.

the haughty monarch, for the momentous occasion; an apartment suitable to the state of an English queen, and the heir apparent of a new principality. It is, however, matter of conjecture, and not worthy of discussion; for as *Mr. Wyndham*, justly remarks, "Surely the birth of such a degenerate, and dastardly tyrant reflects little honour on the castle of Caernarvon."† The circumstances, which gave rise to the event, are far more interesting, both as respects their singular origin, and important consequences. Edward had, by what are termed, the statutes of Rhyddlan, annexed the principality to the kingdom of England, and in a great degree incorporated it, as to the administration of civil justice, with that country. But all this did not reconcile the Welsh with their new master, nor induce them quietly to submit to what, they justly considered, an usurped domination. Boldly and flatly they refused to acknowledge Edward as their sovereign, unless he would comply with their imperious requests, which were, that he should agree to reign, and condescend to reside, in Wales. This being a condition impossible to be complied with, a modification of the requisitions was granted on the part of the Welsh. After detailing the cruel oppressions, unjust exactions, and intolerable insolencies of the English officers, they stated, in a strong remonstrative memorial, that never would they acknowledge or yield obedience to any prince, but of their own nation, and language; and who could shew an unblameable life, and conversation. "King Edward," says the Welsh historian, "perceiving the people, to be resolute, and inflexible, and absolutely bent against any other prince, than one of their own country, happily thought of this politic, though dangerous expedient. *Queen Eleanor* was now quick with child, and ready to be delivered; and though the season was very severe, it being the depth of winter, the king sent for her from England, and removed her to Caernarvon castle, the place designed for her to lye in. When the time of her delivery was come, king Edward called to him all the ba-

† A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales, p. 140.

rons and chief persons throughout all Wales, to Rhuthlan, there to consult about the public good, and safety of their country. And being informed, that his queen was delivered of a son, he told the Welch nobility, that whereas, they had oftentimes intreated him to appoint them a prince, he having at this time occasion to depart out of the country, would comply with their request, upon condition, they would allow of, and obey him, whom he should name. The Welch readily agreed, with the motion, only with the same reserve, that he should appoint them a prince of their own nation. King Edward assured them he would name such an one as was born in Wales, could speak no English; and whose life and conversation nobody could stain: upon the Welsh agreeing to own, and obey, he named *his own son Edward*; but little before born in CAERNARVON CASTLE*." The conqueror, by this bold manœuvre, having succeeded in obtaining, what might be deemed the unqualified submission of the country, began without any regard to justice, or delicacy, to reward his English followers, with the property of the Welsh; and numerous towns, and manors were profusely bestowed on his coadjutative lords. It was not however, till a considerable time after this event, that the English monarch judged it adviseable, to invest his son with the delegated sovereignty. For though prince Edward, was born in 1284, it was not till he had arrived to his sixteenth year, that he received the reluctant fealty of his deluded subjects. "In the twenty-ninth year of that monarch's reign, the prince of Wales came down to Chester, and received homage of all the freeholders in Wales. On this occasion, he was invested, as a mark of imperial dignity, with a chaplet of gold round his head, a golden ring on his finger, and a silver sceptre in his hand,† It is a curious circumstance, that though the country

* Wynne's History of Wales, p. 300.

† Sir John Doddridge speaking of Edward the black prince, being created prince of Wales, observes that his father, "invested him in the said principality with these ensigns of honour, and as in the charter is contained, *Per sertum*

try was transferred by the Welsh, in consequence of birth, that neither the title, nor estate is descendible by birthright to the heir apparent of the British throne. Edward the first summoned his son to Parliament, by the style and title of *Prince of Wales*, and *Earl of Chester*; yet it does not appear, that either of these honours is absolutely *hereditary*. Edward, subsequent to that investiture, summoned the same son, by the honourable designation of *Earl of Chester* and *Flint*. And when Edward the Third conferred the principality upon his son, the *Black Prince*, he decreed, that in future, the eldest son of the kings of England, should succeed to the dignity of *Duke of Cornwall*; and, at the same time, several possessions were annexed to the duchy. Since which time the title of *Dux Cornubiæ*, is legally attached to *primogeniture*. But long subsequent to that period, the honour of Wales does not appear to have been necessarily connected with *birth*, for the eldest sons of the English monarch were created by letters patent; and though by courtesy, the first born of the royal family is styled *prince*, or *princess* of Wales, yet it does not seem, this title is dependent on nativity.* However, it is not legally clear, since the time of Henry the seventh, that any public investiture, by patent or otherwise, has taken place, respecting the honorial distinction; but the eldest son seems to have succeeded, both to the dignity and concomitant property, as a matter of course.

The conqueror of Wales seemed to indulge a peculiar pride in paying attention to his adopted town, and bestowing favours on the place, which had administered to his political consequence. Caernarvon was distinguished by the *first* royal charter granted to Wales, by which it was constituted a free borough, to be governed by a mayor, who, for the time being, was to be governor of the castle, one alderman, two bailiffs, a town clerk, and two serjeants at mace. A member was summoned

certum in capite, and annulum in digito aureum, ac virgam argenteum juxta morem." "Historical account, &c." p. 6.

* Seldon's Titles of Honour, p. 178.

moned to parliament, to represent its burgesses, in conjunction with those of Nevin, Criccieth, Conway, and Pwllheli: and the elective franchise is vested in every inhabitant, resident or non-resident, who has once been admitted to the freedom of the place. The townsmen were allowed to have a prison for petty offences, or misdemeanors, not cognizable by the sheriff of the county. They were, also, allowed a mercantile guild, with this privilege attached, that if any one's villein, or bondsman, dwelt within the precincts of the town, possessing lands, or paying scot and lot for a year and a day, he was no longer claimable by his lord; but enjoyed all the immunities of emancipation. The burgesses were also exempt, in every part of the kingdom, from tallage, lastage, passage, murage, pontage, and all other impositions, of whatever kind. No Jews were permitted to reside among them, and they could not be convicted of any crime committed between the rivers *Conwy* and *Dovey*, but under a verdict, returned by a jury of their *own* townsmen. Caernarvon may justly be considered the boast of North Wales; whether the delightfulness of the site, the regularity of the plan, the goodness of the buildings, or its other concomitant advantages be taken into consideration. The situation partly on the Menai, and partly on the estuary of the Seiont, where that river receives the tide from the former. The streets of the town, though narrow, are regularly built, and cross each other at right angles, and the whole were surrounded by a massy wall, of great height and thickness, flanked and defended at short intervals by numerous semicircular bastion towers. A walk ranged intirely round the inside of the embattled parapet, and two gates formed the entrance into the town, the east facing the mountains, and the west opening to the Menai. A wide and most accommodating terrace, extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls, forms a most charming walk, the fashionable promenade, in fine weather, for all descriptions of people; who, while they inhale the salutiferous breeze, may be pleasingly amused by the moving varieties of the port.

Caernarvon,

Caernarvon, as to public buildings, after viewing its noble castle, presents little worthy of admiration. *The Church* which, ecclesiastically speaking, is a chapel annexed to the mother church of Llanbeblic, exhibits no display of architectural beauty. The building was ever too small for the population of the place, and appears to have originally been intended only for the use of the garrison. The devotional inconvenience experienced from this, has at length, however, roused the long dormant spirit of the diocese: and several meetings have been called, and sums subscribed, for enlarging the present structure, or erecting a new one, upon a more capacious plan.

The *County Hall*, in which the great sessions are held, is a low mean-looking building, though neat, and sufficiently commodious within, stands nearly opposite the grand entrance to the castle.

The *County Prison* also, situated near the former, in Newgate-street, is a neat small edifice, erected about eighteen years ago, upon the plan, though of inferior dimensions to the one at Ruthin, in the county of Denbigh: and assumes more the appearance, of what it almost virtually is, an almshouse, than a gaol.

The apartments over the eastern gateway, anciently occupied by the escheator of North Wales, and subsequently as the custom-house, was converted into a *town hall* for the transacting municipal business, according to an inscribed label in front, by the munificence of Sir William Wynne, and his nephew, Thomas Wynne, Esq. in the year 1767.

A new Market-house has been lately erected, with excellent shambles for the exhibition of meat, with stalls for other articles, over and under which are ware-rooms for the housing of grain, and various commodities left unsold.

The hot and cold *Sea-water Baths*, built by the earl of Uxbridge, and the elegant hotel just without the town, erected under the patriotic direction of the same nobleman, add considerably to the accommodations of Caernarvon. These, together with the delightful situation of the place, and the moderate

derate price of provisions, the market being exceedingly well supplied, form strong inducements for many genteel families to take up their residence in the town, and its vicinity. A large ancient mansion, called *Plas Mawr*, from its unique appearance, often attracts the attention of travellers. Two dates conspicuously placed in front, inform the observer, that the edifice was constructed, or altered, during the year 1691. Another, in Black-boy street, is dated 1613. To those fond of making comparative views, respecting domestic architecture, these afford a fair specimen of the aukward style of building of the age, which was neither what has been denominated Gothic, nor classical; but an heterogeneous and tasteless commixture of both. The town contains many good houses, and the suburbs extend far beyond the mural boundary. Within a few years several improvements have been made, both in re-edifications, and also in erecting new buildings. What was called the *Maes*, near the castle, and long a nuisance to the place, now forms the site of a handsome row of buildings, terminated by an excellent inn and tavern.

Caernarvon is destitute of manufactures; but by means of the maritime situation, it is enabled to carry on a considerable coast-trade with London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Ireland; and some little communication with foreign connections, has been recently attempted by a few spirited individuals.

The *port*, though affording a sufficient quantity of sea-room, and excellent anchorage in from ten to twelve fathom, yet the *Aber sand bank*, forming a dangerous bar, at the constricted entrance, must ever constitute a preventive obstacle to its becoming an harbour, for ships of a great draught of water. Camden supposed, that this harbour was the *Sistuntiorum, vel Setantiorum Portus*, described in Ptolomy's coasting account of Britain. But this, among other statements, only shews how little that great topographer was acquainted with the principality; and what inattention he must have evinced to the distances, contained in the Itineraries. In going through the Menai straits, the Roman geographer passes the Conway, at the

the mouth of which river, called by him *Toisobius*, the itineraries both of Antonine and Richard place the station of *Conovium*. "Here," says the investigating Whitaker, "let us follow him gradually. From the Conway, in forty miles to the north, we proceed eighty to the east, to the æstuary *Seteia*. This is the opening of the *Dee*, as that could not be missed by a person ranging upon the coast, and, if not missed, would come next in succession. And Ptolomy's distance of forty miles, right north and south, from the Toisobius to the Deva, corresponds with great exactness, to the more indirect distance on the road, at which the itineraries concur to set the town of *Deva* from *Conovium*; Richard's fixing this at fifty miles from that, and Antonine's at fifty one. Both arguments together form an irrefragable proof, that the Seteia of the geography cannot be any other æstuary than the Deva of the itineraries, and the present Dee. And this is the more particularly insisted upon, as it is of importance in itself, and has been mistaken, even by our collector from the ancients."*

The import trade comprises wines, coals, porter, groceries, &c. &c., and the export consists chiefly of slates of various descriptions, brought down to the quay from the extensive quarries in the vicinity of Llanberis and Llanllyfni. *The Quay*, ranging round a side of the castle is of considerable extent; but a plan for its improvement has gradually been put in execution, by filling up a large marsh on the right bank of the Seiont, and thus confining the tide within the river bounds, deepening the channel, and enabling vessels to moor on a much more extended line. This has been partially effected by all vessels inwards, in ballast, being bound to discharge it on the spot, destined for the future quay. But an act, obtained about two years since, for the purpose of ameliorating the port, embraces a much more capacious and judicious plan, that of taking out a *pier*, and extending the quays in a north-easterly direction; so that vessels of considerable burthen, may be able to ride afloat.

* History of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 174.

afloat. To accomplish this desirable object, the corporation was impowered to raise a sum of money, in addition to the customary harbour-dues, by a port tax, of one shilling and sixpence on every hundred weight of tea, three pence per chaldron on coals, and a proportionable per centage on all other articles, entered inwards; with the proviso, that the quantum of such sum levied, should not exceed one penny in the pound. The expences of procuring the act having been liquidated, and the harbour and additional dues having amounted last year to about seven hundred and forty pounds; the accumulation will soon enable the commissioners to realize the intentions of the statute.

The annexed lists will shew the state of trade, the number of vessels that have cleared out, and entered inwards, from the port of Caernarvon, for ten years inclusive.

CLEARED OUT.				ENTERED INWARD.			
Years.	Foreign.	Coasters.	Total.	Years.	Foreign.	Coasters.	Total.
1790	105	180	285	1790	15	217	232
1	116	162	278	1	15	232	247
2	105	181	286	2	17	243	262
3	110	168	278	3	9	234	243
4	96	282	378	4	14	218	232
5	96	301	397	5	17	234	251
6	129	228	357	6	23	229	252
7	74	137	211	7	29	198	227
8	64	145	209	8	11	190	201
9	108	130	238	9	18	201	219
	1003	1914	2917		168	2198	2366

The number of vessels with their tonnage, within the last three years, was as follows:

	1807	1808	1809
From 16 to 50 tons - - - -	535	486	568
Do. 50 to 100 do. - - - -	261	272	251
Do. 100 to 150 do. - - - -	27	38	27
Do. 150 to 200 do. - - - -	6	—	1
Do. 200 to 250 do. - - - -	—	—	1
TOTAL . .	829	796	848

The

The number of vessels, with their tonnage and number of men, belonging to the port, were as follows, in the several successive years.

1800.			1803.			1805.		
Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
40	2053	131	55	3435	216	68	3866	248
1807.			**1808.**			**1809.**		
Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons	Men.
62	3444	224	61	3385	221	50	2713	179*

Though this town is by far of the greatest importance in North Wales, its port is only a creek, dependent on the haven of Beaumaris; to the comptroller of which the collecting officer is amenable. The custom-house, a small insignificant looking building, is situated without the town walls, on the extra-mural platform already described. There is a well-supplied weekly market on Saturdays, and seven annual fairs. By the returns made to Parliament, the number of houses amounted to 609, and the inhabitants to 3626, viz., males 1588, and females 2038.

The church of LLANBEBLIC, which parish includes Caernarvon, about half a mile from the town, is supposed to have obtained the derivation of the name from *Publicius*,* the son of Helena; and here divine service is performed once every Sunday in *Welsh*, as it is in *English* at Caernarvon.

Rowland states, † that he retired from the world, and took a religious habit, in consequence of which Conan Meriadog, who had been advanced by his relation, the emperor Constantine,

* Peblic, the son of Maxen Wledig, or Maximus the Tyrant, seventy-ninth king of Britain, and his wife Elen, or Helen, daughter of Eudav, was a reputed saint, who lived about the commencement of the fifth century.—Owen's Camb. Biog.

† Mona Antiqua. p. 165.

Constantine, to the throne of Armorica, in Gaul, became heir to his uncle Eudav, or Eudda, and succeeded him as duke of Cornwall. This advowson with the annexed chapelry, Richard the second granted, on account of their extreme poverty, to the nuns of St. Mary's in Chester. In the church is an altar tomb, erected to the memory of *William*, a son of *Sir William Gryffyd* of *Penrhyn*, who died in 1587, and Margaret his wife, daughter of John Wynn ap Meredydd. Two recumbent figures on a mat, carved in white marble, exhibit a fine specimen of the sculptorial art. He is represented clad in armour, and she in the costume of the times, a loose robe with a sash about the waist, ruffles at the wrists, and a quilted ruff encircling the neck. Round the sarcophagus, are figures of their children in a supplicating posture. From Caernarvon, along the western part of the bay, the shore is flat, consisting chiefly of sandy or gravelly beach. The mountains receding from the sea, leave a considerable space of champagne country, through which a very good road has been formed, without the aid of turn-pike toll. But the antiquary will be diverted from this, by part of a *Roman* road appearing on his right, and extending from Segontium, to the strong post of *Dinas Dinlle*. This comprises the top of a large mount, apparently artificially formed, on the verge of an extensive marsh near the shore, the form was circular, and the diameter four hundred feet. On the summit is a large area, surrounded by a vast rampart of earth, within this space, the remains of buildings, of an oblong form, are discoverable, constructed with loose stones, and a tumulus composed of the same materials. One part is defended by a deep foss, with two lofty ramparts; the other part faces the shore, where the depredatory power of the waves has worn the sea front into an abrupt cliff; opposite to which was the only entrance. This fortress, Mr. Pennant attributes to the Romans, from the circumstances of coins, belonging to the empire, among which was one of *Alectus*, having been found here; and the place being calculated to afford facility in landing necessary supplies for the garrison of Segontium, when from ad-

verse winds the entrance into the port, became difficult or dangerous. But a stronger proof originates in that almost infallible clue to the development of ancient history, the *ancient appellation* of places. On a stream called *y Fforiad*, that runs not far distant from the fort, are two fords, still retaining the united Roman and British names of *Rhyd pedestre*, and *Rhyd equestre*, the passage for the infantry, and the passage for the cavalry. "To this great centre of observation and action," says the late learned vicar of Llanwnda, "correspond several other forts, that lie diagonally across the country, some toward the north, and others toward the south; which like the wings of an army, were of infinite service in time of danger, for its safety and protection. The most considerable on the east, are *Dinorddwig*, in the parish of Llanddiniolen, and *Yr hen Gastel*, and *Dinas Gorfan;* both in the parish of Llanwnda; and about, three miles distant towards the south, one of the most rocky, is *Craig y Dinas*, on the river Llyfni, about a mile and a half distant. Dinorddwig, or as it is now called, Pendinas, in the parish of Llanddiniolen, is still entire, and strengthened with a double ditch and strong rampart. The excellence of this fort is its strength and compactness, standing, as it were, on tiptoe above all the rest. Yr hen Gastel, the old castle, near the brook Carrog, is a small entrenchment with a single rampart, about fifty paces in length. Dinas Gorfan, near Pont Newydd, the new bridge, has merely the name remaining. But Craig y Dinas, the rocky fort, is a circular encampment, about a hundred paces in diameter, very steep towards the river, that passes it on the south, as it is also on every other side, except the west. The ramparts, with a treble ditch, are of loose stones, exceedingly strong, and not to be taken out, even at this day, without great force. The entrance is towards the north side, very narrow, and forty paces in length. This fort is about a mile south-west of the great road, that leads from Caernarvon to Pwllheli, a quarter of a mile from Lleiar, the ancient family seat of the Twisletons. Farther on, towards the extremity of the diagonal line, at the foot of Llanhaiarn moun-

tain, and not far from the place, where that parish joins, upon Llan Gybi, there is a small fort on the top of a high rock called Caer. This was a fort of observation, to guard, not only the passes of the mountains, but to overlook Llyn, the ancient division of Caernarvonshire, called Evionedd, and St. George's Channel. There are other smaller forts interspersed about the country, (connected, no doubt, in some shape or other, with Dinas Dinlle.) These were either the residences of generals, as Gas-lys, in the parish of Llanwnda, or places of observation for some peculiar military uses, as Dinas y Prif, in the parish of Llanwnda, where there is one deep ditch, and a western entrance, looking towards the principal fort, Dinas Dinlle. The disposition and economy of these head quarters, favour of the wisdom and sagacity that seem to run through the whole; being situated, (if the expression may be used) at proper intervals in the base of a triangle, which the two diagonal lines form, by meeting with the base, in a point at Dinas Dinlle."*

That intelligent traveller and able botanist, Mr. Thomas Johnson † speaks thus of Dinas Dinlle, "Stationem hic in ipso littore Romani milites habuerant, cujus adhuc satis clara vestigia manent." Possibly there may be another of the same kind; for in the old maps both of Saxton and Speed, the name *Caer Ierienrode*, occurs a little lower down at the mouth of the Llyfni; and by the addition of the word Caer, it must have been a fortified place.

Glynllifon Park, situated near a rivulet, bearing the name of Llifon, was built by Sir John Wynne, father of the late and grandfather of the present *lord Newborough*. This spot was the site of a residence of *Cilmin Froed-du*, or Cilmin with a black foot, ancestor of one among the fifteen tribes of North Wales;

* Letter of the late Rev. R. Farringdon, vicar of Llanwnda, near *Dinas Dinlle*.

† An ingenious apothecary, the editor of Gerard's Herbal; who travelled through North Wales in 1639, to collect plants, and published his Tour in 1641, a small volume, under the title of Mercurius Botanicus. He was slain in the defence of Basingstoke house in 1644.

and nephew to Merfyn Frych, who was slain in the year 841 and from whom are descended the family of the Glynnes, that derive their cognomen from the place. Glynllifon came into possession of Sir John, by the marriage of his father, Thomas Wynne, Esq. of Boduan, afterwards created a baronet, with Frances, second daughter of John Glynne, Esq. of Glynllifon. The house is a moderate sized brick mansion, having a colonaded stone vestibule, for its principal entrance, and the park is spacious, though exhibiting little variety in its natural capacity, or artificial decoration. A small fort, with a summer pavilion at the further side, used to amuse the military taste of the late noble proprietor; and where many were accustomed to participate of his lordship's hospitality.

Clynnog, which received the additional epithet of *vawr*, great, was celebrated in early times, as the residence of St. *Beuno*, a saint, held in as much popular estimation, as his sister *Wenefrede*, of devotional memory. He was born of noble parents, in the district, now called Flintshire, but assuming a monastic habit, retired to this place, where it is said, in the year 616, he built a church, and monastery. The village, with the houses and church, half veiled by a grove of trees, together with the mountains in the back ground and the sea in front, form a highly picturesque scene. A few foundations of the walls are at this time the only remains of this once distinguished abbey. Leland thus describes the establishment "*Clunnok vawr* a monasteri, sumtime of white monkes suppressed many yeres ago.* But the original of this monasteri was by *St. Benow* of whom mention is made in S. Wenefrides life. The Whit were of a newer fundation. Guithin, uncle to one of the princes of North Wales was the first giver of Clunnok village and place to Ben-

* Leland dedicates his work, under the title of "A Laboriouse journey and Serche for Englandes Antiquities, to King Henry the Eighth, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, and presented to that monarch, as a new year's gift. Whence it is probable, that the alienation of this religious house, was sometime prior to the general dissolution: and this might probably be included among the number of those, granted to Cardinal Wolsey, for the erection of his new Colleges of Ipswich, in Suffolk, and Christchurch in Oxford.

now. The chirch that is now ther with cross isles is almost as bigge as S. Davides, but it is of a new worke. The old chirch wher S. Bennow liyth is hard by the new.*" The great patron, on this occasion, was *Cadfan*, king of North Wales, whose son *Cadwallan* performed, though reluctantly, a promise, previously made by his father, and granted to the saint the desired portion of land; who in return, presented him with a golden sceptre, valued at the price of *sixty cows*. The estate appears to have been claimed in the right of an infant, which was esteemed valid. The king having refused, either to relinquish the land in question, or give any other in lieu of it, suffered St. Beuno's malediction, in those days the most serious punishment, that could be inflicted on royalty. The latter, however, by the persuasion of Gwrddeint, a relative of the king, was induced to recall his anathema, and accept of the town and demeane of Clynnog; which was granted for ever to God and St. Beuno, for the good of Gwrddeint's soul and that of the wicked Cadwallan. What the order of monks was in the first instance, does not appear; but long subsequent to the time of St. Beuno, the institution consisted of Carmelites or white friars. At the time of the Lincoln taxation, made A. D. 1291, according to Tanner, the church was collegiate, having five portionists, or prebendaries, and probably continued so till its suppression. The amount of its revenues is not recorded, but from the extensive grants, bestowed by numerous princes, and nobles, they must have been immense. The rectory is a sinecure, annexed to the headship of Jesus College, Oxford. The conventual *church*, the most magnificent ecclesiastical structure in North Wales, is built in the pointed style, cruciform in its shape, and comprises a chancel, nave, ailes, and transept, with a handsome square tower. The length from east to west is about one hundred and thirty-eight feet, and from north to south seventy; and near the altar are three stalls, with pointed arches, supported by slender columns. These, which originally were more in number, formed the seats of the officiating priests. The remaining monuments are

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 14.

are few. An altar-tomb, on which are two recumbent figures, and round in relievo seven smaller ones, was erected to the memory of *William Glynne de Lleiar*, his wife and their seven children. Another commemorates his son in law, and successor, in right of marriage, to the demesne of Lleiar, *George Twisleton, Esq.** who was of a Yorkshire family, and holding a Colonel's commission, was very active in the Parliamentarian cause, and had the honour of defeating and taking prisoner, that brave commander and zealous loyalist, Sir John Owen. In the south-east corner of the church stands an old oaken chest, bolted with iron, and fixed down to the floor, called *cyff Beuno*, or Beuno's chest. This, which is kept fast locked, has a small elongated aperture in the lid, for the purpose of receiving the offerings, made by pilgrims, and other devotees, to this favourite saint; who used to present pieces of money with other gifts, and among the rest, all such calves and lambs, which happened to be found with what is termed *nod Beuno*, or St. Beuno's token, a certain natural mark, a slit in the ear. These after the era of superstition had passed by, as it respected the government of the established church, the wardens applied the little money, arising from casual offerings, and the sale of the sacred beasts, to the relief of the poor, or in aid of ecclesiastical repairs.† These alms and oblations, however, have ceased, and it is a subject of lamentation, that no fund now remains to preserve this truly venerable pile from falling to decay. Adjoining the church is a small building called Eglwys Beuno, supposed to have been part of the original church; but the building, in the

* For a discription of this monument, see an account in the Gentleman's Magazine for the month of November 1790.

† From an old Welsh manuscript, found in the alms chest, a few years since, it appears the oblations were made, according to a prescribed form, viz. "I Here I offer to God four pence for my private sins, on which account the Almighty is now punishing me; to be given for the same service, that the blessed saints used to offer, in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

pointed style, is evidently of a subsequent date. The passage leading from the grand structure to this, is a narrow vault covered with large flat stones, apparently of much greater antiquity than either the church or chapel, and probably the only remaining part of the original building. The patron saint was buried in his own chapel, and an altar-tomb lately removed, is said to have been the place of his interment, on which a mutilated stone figure, rudely carved, is considered the effigy of St. Beuno. Such was the miracle-working power of this tomb, that persons affected with any disorder, after making their offering to the chest, supplicating the saint, and prostrating themselves on the flat table stone, believed they would receive immediate relief. Votaries were extremely numerous, and even of late years it was customary to cover it with rushes, and leave on it, during the night, impotent children, after previously giving them a triple ablution in the neighbouring *Ffynnon vair*.* About half a mile distant is a treat to the British antiquary, an uncommon large *cromlech*, in a field near the sea, belonging to a tenement, called Bachwen. The inclination of the table-stone dips towards the west, and contains on its surface several shallow holes, some larger than others, supposed to have been made for the purposes of augury, and at the distance of about thirty yards, stands erect a single stone pillar, doubtless connected with the Druidical rites performed on that altar. The country, after passing Clynney, becomes both barren, desolate, and uninteresting. The white-washed church of Llanhaiarn, from its elevated site, forms an useful landmark to the distant mariner, and the Rhifel, or Eifl rocks, with their forked summits, half obscured by passing clouds, assume a grand and contrasting aspect in the back grounds of the picture. On this mountainous ridge, is what Mr. Pennant describes, as "the most and magnificent, as well as the most artfully constructed British post he ever beheld." This is *Tre'r Caeri*, or the town of fortresses. The only accessible side was

* This holy well dedicated to St. Beuno, is inclosed in a square wall, on the road side, about a quarter of a mile from the village.

was defended by three walls; the first imperfect, the second nearly intire, and the third ranges unequally round the highest verge of the hill. They appear to have been regularly faced, are very lofty, and exhibit, from below, a grand and extensive front. The area is of an irregular shape, and about the centre is a quadrangular space, fenced with stone, and surrounded with two rows of cells: numbers of a like description are scattered about the surface. These, remains of habitations, are of various forms, circular, oblong, and square, some fifteen, and others thirty feet diameter, having long entrance passages, faced with stone. From many eminences in the vicinity, being similarly fortified, * it appears that this part of the country formed one of the retreats, to which the discomfited Britons resorted, to escape the fury of their Saxon invaders.

After ascending the *bwlch*, or hollow, that separates two sugar loaf points of the mountains, dividing the hundred of Llyn from Arfon, and across which extends an immense rampart of loose stones, the ruins of a wall, once forming the defences of this important pass; the descent is into the flat, called *Nant y Gwrtheyrn*, or Vortigern's Valley. To which that unfortunate monarch fled from the rage of his insulted and injured subjects, and where, according to the legendary history of the monks, who never allowed any offending them, to die a natural death, he met with the signal retaliating vengeance on his crimes; both the king and his castle having been here consumed by lightning. Fancy could not imagine a more secluded retreat. Embosomed in a lofty mountain, and bounded by the rocky declivities, it has only one opening, and that towards the sea. A small verdant mount, is said to have been the site of his residence; and a *carn*, or tumulus, covered with turf, in which some years since, a stone coffin, containing the bones of a tall man, were discovered; the place of his interment. This was in the traditionary language of the neighbourhood, denominated *Bedd Gwrtheyrn*, or the tomb of Vortigern.

* Among this number are *Carn Madryn*, *Boduan Moel*, *Ben Tyrch*, *Castell Gwgan*, *Moel Carn Gwoch*, and *Pen y Gaer*.

NEFYN,

Or Nevin, is a small town in the hundred of Dinlaen, containing 242 houses, and 1028 inhabitants, and has a weekly market on Saturdays, but at present is a very insignificant place. However, Edward, the conqueror, thought it expedient, from some reasons or other, to fix upon this, as the station to display his ambition; and celebrate his seizin of Wales, on his accomplishing the subjugation of a country, long the opprobium of his politics. He first held a triumphal revel upon the proudest elevation, Snowdon, and then adjourned, to conclude the ebulitions of joy for victory, by solemn rites on the plains of Nefyn. The place was bestowed by the Black Prince in the twelfth year of his investiture, on *Nigel de Loharcyn*, made a free borough, allowed a mercatory guild; and had every privilege annexed to free boroughs, and participated in all the immunities granted to the joint royal boroughs of Aberffraw, and Newborough, in the county of Anglesea. He at the same time allowed the inhabitants to have two annual fairs; and what would be considered in the present age, an indecorous grant, a *market on a Sunday*. In the year 1284, the long disappointed Edward, after ascending the heights of Snowdon, and taking an extensive view of his hard earned conquests, determined to accommodate his subjects on the more champagne and pleasurable parts of the country, with a view to conciliate their affections. After the manner of the fabulous, or the real Arthur, he instituted a divertisement, comprising tilts, tournaments, and all the paraphernalia of the *Round Table*.

> " Where throngs of knights and barons bold
> In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,
> With store of ladies, whose bright eyes
> Reign influence, and judge the prize,
> Of wit, of arms, while both intend
> To win her grace whom all commend."

The concourse on this occasion was prodigious; the chief nobility

bility of England, and many foreigners of distinction were present at this proud, but disgraceful festival. The custom of the *round table* is supposed to have originated from the jealous spirit of the British, in the early period of our history; but it appears far anterior to the days of Arthur. The Gauls, according to the accounts of Cæsar, and Tacitus, had their circular model of feasting, and probably with the same view of preventing those bickerings, likely to arise at festive boards; where the guests, from their situations, rank in life, or the title of their host, might feel disposed to entertain an idea of superiority. "A form," says the learned Selden, "much commended by a late writer for the like distance of all from the *salt*, being first and last of the table furniture."* This mode of preventing jealousies from precedence, is generally attributed to king Arthur: but the incredible reports narrated of that prince, have even brought his honoured deeds into disrepute, and rendered his very existance a dubious subject. It is stated the first celebration of this knightly order,† was at Caerleon, in Monmouthshire; others fix Winchester as the place, where a comparatively modern piece of furniture is exhibited, as the original round table;‡ and to the present hour, Camelot, or Camel, in the county of Somerset, still prefers its claim to that distinguished honour. It is evident, that the custom was adopted by many successive kings, after the Norman conquest, both prior and subsequent to the time of Edward. The chivalrous festivities during the reigns of Stephen, Henry the third, Edward the third, and the celebrated one by Mortimer, in the time of this prince, at Kenilworth,

* Titles of Honor, p. 366.

† "Its like enough some such thing as Arthur's order of this kind might be.—But many particulars of it, as the names of the knights, the certain number, their cost armor, and such more, whereof too largely are testimonies, such as they be, I beleeve as much, as him that says Sir Lancelo du Lac fleas horses in hell, and that all these Arthurian knights are poor watermen upon Styx, Acheron, and other rivers there, to ferrie spirits, and divele up and down; and that their fare is a fillip on the nose, and at night a piece of mouldy bread." Selden's Titles of Honor, p. 363.

‡ See The Beauties, Vol. VI. 91.

Kenilworth, are famous in history*. Mr. Pennant supposes these fetes were held in those circular *areæ*, which are frequently met with in several parts of the island, "surrounded with a high mound, a ditch in the inside, and two entrances, one opposite the other, for the knights to enter at, and make their onset." One bearing the name, he saw at Penrith, in Cumberland, and another on Thornborough Heath, in Yorkshire. Stow also describes one in the parish of Llansannan, in the county of Denbigh, as a circular plain, cut out of the main rock, on the side of a stony hill, with some twenty-four seats, unequal, which is, by the country people, called Arthur's round table.

About a mile from Nefyn, on the shore, is *Porth yn Llyn*, situated near a fine sandy bay, and defended from the strong westerly winds by a narrow head-land, with its promontory jutting far out into the sea. This was probably a port, frequented by the Romans, as vestiges of strong entrenchments, apparently the work of that people, are still visible in the vicinity. Some time ago a scheme was formed of improving this unfrequented portion of the country, by bringing part of the great road from London to Ireland, through it, by a new line, to have proceeded from Merionethshire across the Traeth mawr, and constituting this port the rendezvous for the packet vessels, instead of Holyhead. For this purpose an act was passed in the year 1806, to erect a pier, and other necessary works, and incorporating a company for raising money, collecting rates, &c.; but on a second application, being subsequently made to Parliament, for further aid, for the purpose of carrying the plan into effect, the pecuniary boon, through counter influence, was peremptorily refused; and the grand work consequently left unperformed.

Brynodol, the seat of *John Griffith, Esq.* is a good mansion, and

* For a more detailed account of these ancient amusements consult the works of Matthew Paris and Thomas de Walsingham. Dugdale in his history of Warwickshire observes, that at the one held in Kenilworth, the knights performed martial exercises, and the ladies danced in *silken mantles*.

and situated on an eminence, commands a most extensive view of a flat woodless tract of country, bounded on one side by a noble mass of mountains of which *Boduan* and *Carn Madryn* rise nobly in the fore ground; and beyond range in majestic grandeur, the whole Snowdonian chain.

The churches in this part of the county are more numerous, than any other, and, from various antient inscriptions, appear to have been founded soon after the introduction of Christianity. On a column in that of Llangynodol, is the following.

"J. GWEN HOEDL JACIT HIC 750."

A holy lady, the reputed patroness of the church. On another,

HÆC ÆDES ÆDIFICATA EST, A.D. M.

Near CEFN AMWLCH, an old seat belonging to tho *Hon. Mrs. Finch*, is a large *cromlech*, called by the common people *coetan Arthur;* and in the parish of LLANJESTIN, various Roman urns have been discovered, at different times. The coast in this part of Caernarvonshire consists of a rocky boundary, which is divided by several small creeks, affording safe retreats from storms, for boats and small craft, during the fishing season. Among these are *Porth Towyn, Porth Colman, Porth Gwylan, Porth Ysgadan,* and ABERDARON; the latter of which is, a village, principally inhabited by fishermen. The church, which Leland has confounded with another parish, some miles distant, was formerly much resorted to by pilgrims, and other devotees, that came to pay their devoirs to the saints of Bardsey; and had the high privilege of sanctuary bestowed upon it. The ailes are separated from the nave by handsome lofty columns, and the whole exhibits an appearance, superior to the place. Near this spot is a small circular encampment, about fifty yards in diameter, defended by a double foss and vallum. This creek is the general place of taking boat, to visit the small and now insignificant, yet once important and distinguished ISLAND OF BARDSEY. The passage is always difficult, and oftimes dangerous, lying through the race of Bardsey, a rapid current, that sets in between the island, and the vast promontory, called

Braich

Braich y Pwll; the ancient *Canganum promontorium* of the Roman geographer. From this natural circumstance, the island received the British appellation of *Ynis Enlli*. The Saxons afterwards called it Bardseye, probably from its having formed a refuge to the bards, who preferred a recluse asylum, to the company of intrusive foreigners. After the massacre of the monks at Bangor Iscoed, this became a place to which many of the surviving monks doubtless fled for safety. Denominated thence *Insula sanctorum*, it is asserted by the poets, to have been the cemetry of twenty thousand of these holy men: but as Fuller humourously remarks, "it would be more facile to find graves in Bardesey for so many saints, than saints for so many graves."* It is extremely probable, however, that this was one of the seats of the *Colidei*, or *Culdees*, the first order of religious recluses in Britain, who had their cells or cloisters in the most secluded parts, for the purposes of undisturbed devotion. These became places for the religious instruction of their disciples, and in Ireland were denominated *celeu*; many of which retain the discriminating appellation, as *Cel*-Manoc, *Cel*-cenney, *Cel*-Ala, &c. These in Wales were designated by the name of *Llan*; a term equivalent to *cel* in the Erse. These western dervises, consulting more the love of solitude than the convenience of their congregations selected for the sites of their cells, which became their future churches, places, singular for their unaccommodating situations. Most had generally near them some spring, or well, denominated a Ffynnon vair; the waters of which, according to the estimation of the saint, for his communication with the Deity, were held in repute for their salutiferous effects. Some story of divine interference generally accompanied the original discovery of such

* Worthies of Wales, p. 29.

† These were called Celedei, from the two Erse terms *Ceile-Dei*, that is, espoused to God, or separated to his service. They were an order of lay monastic religious, governed by an abbot, or principal, elected by members of the body from among themselves.

such a fountain, that became the sigillum to the efficacy of its waters. A few of these ascetics were early joined, by several other ecclesiastical persons, that accompanied the celebrated victor against Pelagius, in the dispute arising out of the Arian heresy, Dubricius, archbishop of Caerleon in Gwent; who having resigned his metropolitan see to his nephew St. David, retired to Bardsey. He died in the year 612, and was here interred, though his body is said to have been removed to the cathedral of Llandaff. The precise period in which the abbey of Bardsey was founded, is uncertain*. According, however, to the narrated flight of Dubricius, it must have been in the early part of the sixth century, during the reign of Cadfan. And an old legend, yet, extent, written in Monkish latin, comments in the usual style of the writers in the dark ages, in the following curious, though ludicrous manner.

This assures us that the Almighty had entered into a particular covenant with Laudatus, in return for the piety of his monks. That he granted to all the religious of the monastery of Bardsey, the peculiar privilege of dying according to the seniority, the oldest always going off first. By this privilege it is stated, that every one knew very nearly the time of his own departure. The following is a translation of it: "at the foundation of the monastery of this island, the Lord God, who attendeth to the petition of the just, at the earnest request of holy Laudatus, the first abbot, entered into a covenant with that holy man, and miraculously confirmed his promise, unto him and his successors, the abbots and monks for ever, while they should continue to lead holy and religious lives, that they should die by succession, that is, that the oldest should go first, like

* Aneurin, the prince of British Bards, who was cotemporary with the metropolitan of South Wales, observes, that Dubricius made his retreat from the fury of the Saxons, immediately after the synod, held at Llanddewi brefi, A. D, 522. At which religious conclave *Lleudad*, romanized into Laudatus, the first abbot, is said to have refused the summons for attendance. Lleudad was the son of Nydd Hael ap Seasylt, of the tribe descended from Maxen Wledog.

like a shock of corn ripe for the sickle. Being thus warned of the approach of death, each of them, therefore, should watch, as not knowing at what exact hour the thief might come; and, being thus always prepared, each of them by turns, should lay aside his earthly form. God, who is ever faithful, kept this covenant, as he formerly did with the Israelites, inviolable, until the monks no longer led a religious life, but began to profane and defile God's sanctuary by their fornications and abominable crimes. Wherefore, after this, they were permitted to die like other men; sometimes the elder, sometimes the younger, and sometimes the middle-aged first: and being thus uncertain of the approach of death, they were compelled to submit to the general laws of mortality. Thus when they ceased to lead a holy and religious life, God's miraculous covenant also ceased: and do thou, therefore, O God, have mercy upon us."*

This peculiar privilege, granted as a meritorious reward to the pre-eminent virtues of the primeval monks, is humourously expressed in one of our old writers, and chronicleering collectors, thus,

"Ad Lline in North wallia
Est insula permodicæ,
Quæ Bardesia dicitur,
A monachis incolitur,
Ubi tam diu vivitur,
Quod senior præmoritur,
Ibi Merlinus conditur
Sylvestris, ut asseritur."

It was an abbey dedicated to the virgin Mary, and further endowed by Roderic Moelwynog, in the eighth century. Edward the second, on complaint being made by petition, against the sheriff of Caernarvon, for illegal exactions, it was found on the inquisition, directed by the royal mandate, issued to the

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 434.

† Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 369.

the justiciary of Wales, Roger de Mortimer; that the said abbot of Bardsey held all and every of his lands within the county of Caernarvon, "*in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam:*" The king therefore, by the advice of his council, not forgetting, by his own special favour, did remit for ever, any sum, or sums, charged, or pretendedly due from the said monastery; and that on no account whatever, should any one in future, on his account, or that of his heirs, give the abbot or monks any molestation. In the time of Henry the eighth, *John Conwey* appears to have been the last abbot, for in that reign Bardsey experienced a similar fate to other religious houses. According to Dugdale, the annual revenues at the dissolution, amounted to 46l. 1s. 4d. and Speed, 58l. 6s. 2d. In the year 1553 the sum of 1l. 6s. 8d. only remained in charge, to the surviving religious of the place. The site of the monastery is merely discoverable by numerous graves lined with stone, and a large ancient building, said to have been the abbot's lodge, now occupied in tenements by several of the inhabitants. A singular ruined chapel, or oratory, not far distant, consists of a long vaulted room, with an insulated stone altar near the east end. Here, on Sundays, one of the natives, in bad weather, reads the liturgy of the established church; but all other parochial duties are performed at Aberdaron. Thus the island, which is said to have afforded an asylum to twenty thousand saints during life, and a secure interment after death, has its spiritual concerns committed to the care of a single rustic.

John Wynne ap Hugh, of the house of Bodville, sheriff for Caernarvonshire in the year 1551, and standard bearer at the battle of Norwich, in the reign of Edward the sixth, had for his services on that occasion, a manor called Court, and Bardsey conferred on him by royal grant. Mr. Pennant, however, on the authority of Tanner, * observes it was given by that monarch, to his uncle Sir Thomas Seymour, and on his demise

to

† Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 381.

to John Earl of Warwick; and that the late Sir John Wynne purchased it from the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Newark. It is now the property of Lord Newborough.

The island, distant about a mile from the main land, rather exceeds two miles in length, by one in breadth, comprising about three hundred and seventy acres of land, of which nearly a third is a mountainous ridge, affording food for a few sheep and rabbits. To the south-east and south-west it is much exposed; but it is sheltered on the north and north-east, by the above elevation, which on its sea-front presents perpendicular and projecting rocky cliffs, in which the hazardous trade of egg-taking already described, is pursued during the resort of puffins, and other migratory birds, in the spring season. On the only accessible side, the south-east, a small well-sheltered harbour is capable of receiving a few vessels from thirty to forty tons burthen. The soil is chiefly argillaceous, and tolerably fertile, producing excellent barley and wheat: and in the bottom is a little quantity of good grass land. The manure is sea-weed or wrack. The rental was recently one hundred guineas per annum, let out in three bargains. The number of houses is eight, and the inhabitants amount to about seventy, who are exempt from all rents and taxes. No reptile is ever seen on this island, except the water lizard, a circumstance easily accounted for, from the want of sheltering woods. The small bay included between Porth Towyn and Ceiriag road, is vulgarly denominated by mariners *Hell's mouth*, from the danger it presents, and the dread with which it inspires navigators, during boisterous weather. From the height and position of the encompassing cliffs, let the wind blow from whatever point of the compass it may, it is observable to come into the bay; and from whatever quarter the tide flows, the upper current apparently sets inwards; so that to those unfortunate enough to be drawn into it, a lee shore is to be dreaded: and happy do they esteem themselves, if they can weather the eastern point, and get into St. Tudwal's road; sheltered by two small islands, which receive their appellation from that saint, and to whom a small chapel on one of them, was dedicated.

In

In the promontory called *Penrhyn Du* one of the points that form this bay, formerly was a considerable adventure for lead ore; and recent attempts to drain the mines from the obstructing water, proved abortive, from the quantity of coal requisite for the engines, and its exorbitant price.

PWLLHELI,

In the parish of LLANNOR, is a small market town and port, situated on the northern site of Cardigan Bay, which has three or four small streams flowing into its traeth. The entrance into the one, that forms the port, is, by a round shaped rock, denominated Careg-yr Imbill, about a mile distant from the place, to which it is joined by a range of sand hills. By a charter, granted in the twelfth year after the Black Prince succeeded to the honour of Wales, this was constituted a free borough, at the request of Nigel de Lohareyn, for the eminent services in Gascony, particularly at the celebrated battle at Poictiers. The privileges included under this grant, were the same as those of the men of Rhosfair in Anglesea. The town of Nefyn, and four librates of land, were all comprised in the donation, for which Nigel was only to render an annual acknowledgement of a rose, in lieu of all rents and services. These several grants were subsequently confirmed by king Edward the Third, at a court holden at Sandwich. The town, though it has little to boast of, consisting of one long street, is the best in this part; and by its harbour being capable of admitting vessels of sixty tons burthen, carries on an extensive coasting trade; and forms the depot, or grand magazine for supplying the south western district of the county. This, is one of those ports, considered as to commercial dues, a creek, subject to the comptroller of the customs at Beaumaris. From a document furnished by Mr. George Chalmers, and published in the Cambrian Register for the year 1795, the number of ships and tonnage then exceeded even those, belonging to Caernarvon, viz. In 1792 the

latter had 61 ships carrying 2240 tons; the former 81, amounting to 2461 tons.

It has a well-attended market on Wednesdays, and by the returns made to government, contains 137 houses and 717 inhabitants. Along the coast from this place to Bardsey island, is a considerable fishing concern; in the season vast shoals of herrings frequent the bays and creeks, which are taken and partly salted on shore, and partly sold to the Irish; who send over small craft for the purpose. Numerous fish of the kind called *John Dorees* * are frequently taken here, and which from their uncouth and forbidding shape, the fishermen used to return to their native element: till an incidental circumstance brought the bonne bouche of that noted epicure and actor *Quin* into repute, as an object of luxury among the Welsh gentry. The *Smelt*† also, another curious fish, is taken near Pwllheli, and a small lobster differing from the common sort in size and place of residence, is frequently found burrowing in the sands on the shore.

CRICCIETH,

Though a market and borough town, contributory to Caernarvon, is but a small insignificant place, comprising a few mean buildings, without the regularity of streets. By the returns made to Parliament, the number of houses is 84, and the population 368. It is notwithstanding of high antiquity, and the remains of its ruined castle, worthy of the traveller's notice. This fortress stands on an eminence at the end of a long neck of land, jutting out into the sea. By this narrow isthmus was the entrance, which was defended by a double foss and vallum thrown across it. The admission is by a gateway between two round bastion towers, into an irregular court, beyond which is another

* *Zeus Faber* of Linnæus.

† *Atherina Hepsetus*, Do.

thet of smaller dimensions. The remaining towers are of a quadrangular form, one within the area, and two on the verge of the rock. The entrance towers are also square inside, and probably were originally so without. The whole never appears to have been a very large fortress, although of great importance from its position. This is supposed by some writers to have been erected by Edward the First; but that monarch probably did no more than cause it to be repaired, and the entrance towers cased, in a circular fashion, to give the whole a more imposing effect. Rowlands observes, that this was a British post.* And the architecture so much resembling that of another, evidently of a very early period, at Dolwyddelan, gives corroborative weight to the opinion. After the conquest, Edward appointed *William de Leybourn* the governor, with an allowance of one hundred pounds per annum; out of which he was to maintain thirty stout men, ten were to be cross-bowmen, a chaplain, surgeon, a carpenter, and one mason.

The proud boast of his countrymen *Sir Howel y Fwyall*, a hero, descended from *Collwyn ap Tangno*, had the government bestowed upon him by the Black Prince, whom he had attended at the battle of Poictiers, where he is said to have performed prodigies of valour, and captured the French king. But that honour, is with more probability, ascribed to *Denis de Morebegne*, a knight of Artois.† Some more, equally improbable stories are related respecting Sir Howel, who was denominated *y Fwyall*, or the pole-axe, the figure of which he bore in his coat of arms.

"The country lying within the space between this place in the hundred of Efionydd, abounded with gentry, that formed an *irritabile genus*, for which the principality has been so remarked by their English neighbours. This part of Caernarvon, in remote days, was possessed by *two clans*; one descended from *Owen Gwynedd*, prince of Wales, consisted of four houses, *Cesail*

* Mona, Antiqua, 149.

† Johnes's Froissart, Vol. I. p. 489,

Gyfarch, Ystym Cegid, Clennney, Brynkir, Glasfryn, or *Cwmstrallyn;* the other was derived from *Collwyn ap Tangno,* and consisted of the houses of *Whilog, Bron y Foel, Berkin, Gwynfryn, Tal hen Bont,* now Plas Hen, and *Pennardd.* In the days I allude to the feuds among the gentry, filled the land with blood. The history of our country during that period, is the history of revenge, perfidy, and slaughter*."

So high did the contentions run, says Sir John Wynne, that "they would even fight for the first good morrow," where a more ostensible cause could not be found. The first of the quarrels that I shall mention, commenced about the year 1468, the seventh of Edward IV.—There subsisted in Wales at this period, and it is not yet entirely done away, a kind of connection unknown in England, that of *foster parent.* When a child was given to another family to be nurtured and educated, which was very commonly done, an attachment took place that was esteemed equally inviolable with the one betwixt the child and its natural parents.'

Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, of Gesailgyfarch, about a mile from Penmorfa, was brought up under John ap Meredith, as his foster-father. Jevan married the sister of Howell ap Rhys, of Bron y Voel a house not far distant, but, in consequence of his attachment to John ap Meredith, his foster-father, betwixt whose family and that of Howell, there had always subsisted feuds and jealousies, these became almost entirely transferred to him. Howell's second wife, (for his first wife was also the sister of Jevan,) was afflicted with a most quarrelsome and ungovernable disposition, and she became the principal agent in the fomentation of the disputes betwixt the houses. In times when the most villainous stratagems were adopted to ill treat, or even to assassinate an enemy, it was necessary in so wild a country as this, that every man should be constantly on his guard, and never appear abroad unarmed. Howell made several attempts to destroy Jevan, all of which had proved unsuccessful. At length he received information that

* Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. II p. 369.

that Jevan and some friends were going to Lanvihangel, a village about three miles from his house, to meet a large party, who were to exercise in various feats of activity. Howell, in consequence, hired an assassin, and formed the following plan to murder him. He collected together a strong party of his adherents, who were to surprise them in their journey, and when in the confusion of battle, every one's attention was engaged, the man, who was a stranger, had directions to go carefully behind the tallest and most handsome man of the whole company and to knock him down. "You will easily distinguish him (says Howell) by his immense stature: but he has a foster-brother, Robin ap Inko, a little fellow who is always near him; be aware of this man, for however hot the encounter may be, he is generally on the watch for his brother's safety."—Jevan set out on horseback with his friends, in the morning, His wife accompanied them, on foot, about a mile of the road, when she returned. In her way back she met her brother Howell, with a company of armed men, riding in the same direction, and immediately guessing at the intent of the expedition, intreated him to desist and return home. He attempted to push past her, when she snatched at the horse's bridle, but not succeeding, from his turning suddenly round, she caught hold of the tail. By this she suffered herself to be dragged along, imploring them with tears to spare her husband's life. But being forced to give up her hold, by a blow on the arm from Howell's sword, she sprung before him to a narrow place, where there was a wooden bridge, over which he must pass. Stepping on this, she tore away the hand-rail, and threw it with such fury, and with so sure an aim at his head, that had he not evaded the blow, it would infallibly have brought him to the ground.

Howell and his party pushed by the lady, and soon overtook their adversaries, whom they found much inferior to themselves in number. Certain of success, they made the onset, and Jevan and his friends bore the attack with the utmost bravery. The assassin, attentive to his orders, soon discovered his man,

and approaching behind him, as he thought unobserved, aimed a blow at his head,—but Robin ap Inko, who was at hand, laid him in a moment breathless on the ground. This closed the business of the day, for Howell called out to his men, that it was time to be gone, since Robin ap Inko had been so ill-watched.

Not long after this contention, the parson of Llanfrothen took a child of Jevan's to foster. This was a new source of jealousy to Howell's wife, since her husband possessed more land in the parish than Jevan. She therefore formed a scheme to have him murdered. She sent a woman to his house to intreat, under the appearance of poverty, a night's lodging. This being granted without hesitation, the woman about midnight, shrieked so violently, as to induce him to hasten to her relief; when, rushing out of the house, she threatened revenge, under the plea of his having attempted to ravish her. In the morning her brothers, three well known villains, watched the parson as he went to look at his cattle, and murdered him. As in those days none but the men who actually struck the blow, and who, in consequence, were called *Llaw-rudds*, or Red hands, were considered guilty of a murder, only two of these men fled from the country.

In Chirkland, resided the family of Trevors, friends of Howell, and in Oswaldstreland, the Kyffins, friends of Jevan, two parties, as greatly at enmity, as those of whom I am speaking. These had each their friends in different parts of the country, to whom according to the manners of the times, they sent such of their followers for protection as had been guilty of murder or manslaughter; and they in return, afforded refuge to others from their friends. These Llaw-rudds hid themselves during the day in the dwelling houses, but at night they generally spent their time in the wine-houses of the family.

Two of the parson's murderers fled into Chirk-land, and Jevan, to punish the villains, came secretly into the neighbourhood, and was on the watch for them for some time, at length with the help of some friends, he discovered, and seized both the

the men. As his enemies immediately received information of it, and began to collect in considerable numbers; he did not however, attempt to escape with them, but was compelled to execute them on the spot.

On his return, Jevan, and seven of his adherents, were riding by moonlight, near Traeth mawr, when an arrow, evidently directed from an adjacent hill side, covered with wood, glanced past them. They stopped, and listening for a moment, shot all at once towards the place from whence they supposed it to proceed; and one of those random arrows fatally punished their enemy, whom they found to be the other man concerned in the murder at Llanfrothen.

It has been remarked that the Llaw-rudds, or murderers, were always taken great care of by the friends of the family from whence they were sent. Howel, therefore, having received information that Jevan and his principal adherents, were about to go to the assizes at Caernarvon, sent for some of his most trusty friends, and, among the rest, for David ap Jenkin, a relation, an outlaw, and a man of great valour, to storm Jevan's house in his absence, seize all the Llaw-rudds, and convey them to be hanged. They commenced the attack early in the morning, and the men who were sleeping in the hall, being roused by the noise, called for assistance to all the outlaws, who were hid in different places around. Jevan's wife, like the good housewives of those days, had risen some time before it was light, to superintend the making of the metheglyn. The wort was boiling, but no sooner did she and her maid understand what was going on, than they laded out the scalding liquor, and bestowed it liberally on the heads of the assailants. This ended, they further assisted the men to defend the house, which was now attacked on all sides. Several breaches were effected in the walls, but so brave was the defence, that no one dared to lead a party through. The whole country, in a few hours, was in a state of alarm, and the tenants and friends of Jevan assembled in great numbers, under the command of the valiant Robin ap In-

ko. A fight was commenced, which lasted all that day, and till the next morning, when coming to a truce, Robin threatened, that if they foolishly persevered till the arrival of a party of friends, which he hourly expected, every man should be put to the sword. Prudence, therefore, dictated a retreat, and when they arrived at Howell's house, David ap Jenkin seriously advised his friend to live on good terms with his brother-in-law, and neighbour, "for be assured," (said he) "that I have met too warm a resistance in his absence, ever to make one with you in attacking his house when he is present." After this exploit, Howell at different times entered into several obligations to keep the peace, and many awards were made by intermediate friends, on the subject of their contentions, but all to no purpose. These did not end till the death of Jevan, who it is said, was seized with the plague at his house at Gefailgyfarch, and died at the early age of thirty-one.*

On a review of these family feuds, generative of such complicated evils, the mind of the moral philosopher is led to reflect on the depraved state of man, in his individul capacity; and the politician must be equally attentive in his enquiries, how far human capability extends, that by action or example in society, may tend to disturb the principles of social order, or interrupt the influence of the laws, necessary for the preservation of right, in every well organized state. The evils which have long happily ceased, arose out of a system of legislation, which at the period it was adopted, might have been comparatively productive of much good: But after the subjugation of Wales, the sad intermixture of the English and Welsh codes, without sufficient discrimination, or equitable execution, as to the nature of the offence, or the quantum of damages; the most flagitious crimes seldom met with any other punishment, than what resulted from the ebulitions of private revenge; and the most atrocious assaults

* See a more particular account in Bingley's North Wales, Vol. p. 408, and the History of the Gwedir family, published in the Hon. Daines Barrington's Miscellanies, Quarto.

assaults and murders were connived at, for a paltry pre
compensation. In the otherwise excellent Digest of la
Hywel Dda, there was a *gwerth*, or a price for shedding l
blood, as there was a mulct in the Saxon code of a much
period.

In the grand Wallesian system,* it will be seen that a
position was affixed to every species of offence, coming wi
the criminal jurisdiction, and that a commutation might be
sisted on, for injuries committed malice prepense; from the
murder of a king to the maiming in the slightest degree, one
of his meanest vassals. Reverting from a subject, at which
the mind, alive to the principles of justice and the feelings of
humanity, recoils, the traveller will find a variety of objects to
afford relief. The Antiquary will visit *Dolbenmaen*, where is a
circular tower of British workmanship, apparently a signal
post to the numerous fortresses, scattered around. *Ystym
Cegid*, presents three *cromlechs*, nearly adjacent to each other;
above Penmorfa is a small *druidical circle*, with the stones, some
deranged, and others fallen; and on *Bwlch craigwen* is a large
one of the same kind, almost intire, composed of thirty-eight
upright stones. The former has much the appearance of the
circle called, " the *Bride stones*," in the parish of Biddulph,
county of Stafford, described in the Mona Antiqua†: and
the latter are more like that grand Bardic circle at Rolrict, de-
scribed in Dr. Plot's Natural History of Oxfordshire. At the
head of some low marshy meadows, lying near the Traeth
mawr, under the wild frowning aspect of the *Hedog*, a vast
mountain, which separates this part of the vale of Beddgelert,
is situated the small village of,

PENMORFA. Had the communication taken place across the
peninsula, this might have risen in the scale of importance; at
present the church is the only thing, that would induce a traveller
to make any diversion from his route. A small monument com-

 memorates

* Leges Wallicæ, Lib. III. Cap. I. and II.
† p. 319.

memorates the loyalty, and valour of the lord of Clenneney, a mansion and demesne in the vicinity, by the following inscription:

M. S.
Johannis Owen de
Clenneney in co. Carnarvon militis,
viri
in patriam amoris ardentissimi:
In regem (beatissimum martyrem Carolum I um)
indubitatis fidelatis clari;
qui, ad sacrosanctam majestatem a perduellionem
rabie eripiendam, summa pericula, lubentissime obivit,
Hostium copios non semel fudit, ac fregit:
religionem vindicavit:
Donec, infelici sorte in perditissimorem hominum manus,
Regali jam sanguine imbutas,
incidevit Dux praestantissimus;
Unde supplex, sese obsessam redinerat
nisi, quod Heroi consummatissimo
Famæ plus, quam vitæ solicito tale λυτρον displicuit
Collo igitur imperterrite oblato,
securis aciem retudit divina vis,
Volucrisque fati tardavit alas, donec senex latissimus
Carolum 2dum et sibi et suis restitutum viderat.
An. Dni. 1666, et Ætatis suæ 66. placide expiravit.

This eminent character in the internecine warfare, that unhappily was carried on at the period in question, so far as it affected North Wales, bore an arduous and distinguished part. It has been previously stated in the account of Caernarvon castle, how Sir John, having long struggled in the royal cause, was at length overpowered by superior forces, defeated, and taken prisoner; but his emancipation appears providentially singular. On his capture the valorous knight was conveyed to Windsor, where he found five others, the earl of Holland, the lords, Goring, Loughborough, Capel, and Major General Langhorn, deprived of their liberty, for having espoused the same cause. A vote had passed the house for the banishment of these state prisoners, and before it was put in execution, the king was beheaded. Immediately on which event, more sanguinary measures marked the proceedings of the triumphant

party. An order was issued, to try the duke of Hamilton, the earl of Holland, the lords, Goring and Capel, with Sir John Owen. On the trial he displayed the same intrepidity of spirit, which had been the discriminating trait of his conduct in more fortunate times. Undaunted at the aweful situation, in which he stood, when put upon his defence, he replied, "He was a plain gentleman of Wales, who had been always taught to obey the king; that he had served him honestly during the war; and finding many honest men endeavoured to raise forces, whereby they might get him out of prison, he did the like:" and then concluded in a dignified strain, like a man unconscious of guilt, and who was perfectly careless whether he should receive a favourable or unfavourable issue. The sentence was, that he should be beheaded. On hearing which he bowed to the court, and with a humorous display of fortitude, returned the judges thanks, for their unexpected lenity. Being interrogated as to what he meant, his answer was prompt, and audible. "It was a great honour to a poor gentleman of Wales, to lose his head, with such noble lords; for by G— he was afraid they would have hanged him*." He might probably have obtained a mitigation of the capital part of the punishment, had he been supplicatory in his conduct. But, as his epitaph states, more *solicitous of character than life*, he neither begged for mercy, nor was a petition preferred to Parliament in his favour: although every effort was exerted in behalf of the other condemned prisoners. To the astonishment however of the house and the world, colonels Hutchinson and Ireton†, became his advocates; the latter observing, "That there

* Whitelock, quoted by Pennant, Tour in Wales, Vol. I. p. 337.

† That such a man as Hutchinson should have been ready to procure some hearing, for a person so circumstanced as Sir John, is a subject, that excites no surprise; but that *Ireton*, the sanguinary Ireton, should have ever thought, for a moment, of furthering the cause of clemency, is an anomaly in his character and demonstrates that the most hardened of mankind cannot always be steeled against the feelings of humanity. See a further account of this affair in Mrs. Hutchinson's Memoirs of the life of Colonel Hutchinson; a work elucidatory of many events which occurred, during the civil war.

there was one person for whom no one spoke a word, and therefore requested, that he might be saved by the sole motive and goodness of the House." In consequence, the golden sceptre of mercy was extended towards him; he was ordered to be imprisoned, and after a few months confinement, by petitioning, he obtained his liberty; on which he retired to Clennenny, where he died, and was interred, as stated in the foregoing inscription.

A small distance from Penmorfa, to the south-east, are two small inlets or arms of the sea, denominated *Traeth mawr* and *Traeth bach*, or *bychan*. Across the former sand, at ebb-tide is a ford on the road, leading to Tan-y-bwlch; and another over the latter, lies in the direction to Harlech. These save a very circuitous route. For, otherwise, in both cases the traveller must go round to the bridge over the Glas-llyn, near Beddgelert. Passing these, is often attended with danger, owing to a stream running through each, which swelled by the mountain torrents, have at times an unusual depth of water; and the beds being left unequal in various places by the opposing tide. To a stranger, a *guide* is essentially necessary; and under the most favourable circumstances, these fords are attended with great inconvenience. At the conflux of the two estuaries with the ocean, is a small detached sand bank, called *Gest*, between which, and the two traeths there is a deep channel. In the year 1625, Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, conceived the great design of gaining both the Traeths, from the sea, by an embankment. He implored the assistance of his illustrious countryman, Sir Hugh Myddleton. Sir John's letter, and Sir Hugh's reply will be the best account that perhaps can be given of the affair; which never was carried into execution for want of money. Sir John's is as follows:

" Right worthie Sir, my good cousin, and one of the great honors of the nation.

I understand of a greate work that you have performed in the Isle of Wight, in gaininge two thousand acres from the sea. I may saie to you what the Jewes said to Christ---we have heard of thy great workes done abroade, doe somewhat in thine own countrey. There

There are too washes in Merionethshire, whereon some parte of my being lieth, called Traeth Mawr, and Traeth Bychan, of a great extent of land, and entering into the sea by one issue, which is not a mile broad at full sea, and verie shallow. The fresh currents that run into the sea are both vehement and greate, and carrie with them much sand; besides the southerly winde usually bloweth fulle to the havens mouth, carrieth with it so much sand, that it hath overwhelmed a great quantitie of the ground adjacent. There, and also in the borderinge countreys, abundance of wood, brush, and other materials fit to make mounds, to be had at a verie cheape rate, and easilie brought to the place; which I hear they doe in Lincolnshire, to expell the sea. My skill is little, and my experience none at all in such matters, yet I ever had a desire to further my country in such actions as might be for their profit, and leave a remembrance of my endeavors; but hindred with other matters, I have only wished well, and done nothinge. Now being it pleased God to bring you into this country, I am to desire you to take a ride, the place not being above a daies journey from you: and if you do see the thing fit to be undertaken, I am content to adventure a brace of hundred pounds to joyne with you in the worke.

I have leade ore on my grounds great store, and other minerals near my house; if it please you to come hither, beinge not above too daies journey from you, you shall be most kindly wellcome---it may be, you shall find here that will tend to your commoditie and mine. If I did knowe the day certaine when you would come to view Traeth Mawr, my son Owen Wynn shall attend you there, and conduct you thence to my house. Concluding me verie kindly to you, doe rest,

Your loving cousin and friend,

J. WYNN.

Gwydir,
1st September, 1625.

To the honored Sir HUGH MYDDLETON, *Knt. Bart.*

Honorable Sir,

I have received your kind letter. Few are the things done by me, for which I give God the glory. It may please you to understand my first undertaking of publick works was amongst my owne, within less than a myle of the place where I hadd my first beinge, 24 or 25 years since, in seekinge of coales for the town of Denbigh.

Touching the drowned lands near your lyvinge, there are manye things considerable therein. Iff to be gayned, which will hardlie be performed without great stones, which was plentifull at the Weight, as well as wood; and great sums of money to be spent, not hundreds, but thousands—and first of all his Majesty's interest must be got. As for myself, I am grown into years, and full of business here at the mynes, the river at London, and other places—my wecklie charge being above 200l.; which maketh me verie unwillinge to undertake anie other worke; and the least of theis, whether the drowned lands or mynes, requireth a whole man, with a large purse. Noble Sir, my desire is great to see you, which should draw me a farr longer waie; yet such are my occasions at this tyme here, for the settlinge of this great worke, that I can hardlie be spared one howre in a daie. My wieff being also here, I cannot leave her in a strange place. Yet my love to publique works, and desire to see you (if God permit) maie another tyme drawe me into those parts. Soe with my heartie comendations I comitt you and all your good desires to God,

Your assured loving couzin to command,

Lodge, Sept. 2, 1625. HUGH MYDDLETON.

This grand, and noble design, that apparently failed, for want of proper encouragement, and which it was well observed, would require "a whole man with a large purse," has lately been undertaken by a gentleman, whose capacious and liberal mind, not only embraced individual remuneration, but national utility. W. A. Madocks, Esq. formed first a scheme of regaining a portion of land on the western side of Traeth mawr, which he realised about ten years ago. Recovering from

from the sea by an embankment of earth, near two miles in length, and of various breadth, a tract, comprising nearly nineteen hundred acres of rich land; which now produces most luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, clover, &c. To this he affixed the appropriate name of *Glandwr*. Such a successful issue induced Mr. M. to attempt the more arduous task, of recovering the greater part of the drowned lands within the Traeth mawr, by extending an embankment right across it, from side to side. In the year 1807, he obtained a grant from the crown, vesting in him and his heirs, or assigns, the whole of these sands, Pont-aber Glas-llyn to the point at Gest. The bold design was shortly after commenced, and is now, 1810, almost executed. This embankment, is formed of soil, and stones, obtained by blasting the circumjacent rocks, and which are drawn in trams on iron railways, from each extremity, or carried in small vessels. Unforeseen accidents at first occurred, discouraging, but not presenting insurmountable obstacles. The materials often sunk into the sand, or were washed out of their positions by the violent action and re-action of the tides. To obviate these difficulties, a strong coarse kind of matting was formed of rushes, growing abundantly on the adjacent marshes. This was secured by means of stakes, driven into the ground, and with the heavy stones, thrown down upon it, apparently forms a solid and durable foundation. The extent of the line, from north to south, is about a mile; the breadth of the embankment at the base, one hundred feet, and at top thirty. On the eastern side of this a turnpike road is intended to be made, for the purpose of forming a communication between the counties of Caernarvon, and Merioneth. On the north side of the Traeth, a new channel has been cut, to divert the waters descending from the mountains to a tide bridge, constructed of slate stone, comprising five arches, which form so many sluices, stopped by double gates, shutting towards the sea in an angular position.* These are intended to move automatically,

* In the river sides of these are drop floodgates, or hatches, sliding in grooves, for the future purpose of irrigating the recovered lands.

matically, closing with the influent tide, and opening occasionally, with the refluent back water. This grand undertaking, in September last, 1810, was accomplished, except about one hundred yards, nearly in the centre, the bank having been carried on from each extremity. The filling up of this small chasm, is considered the trying point; for as the water course has been narrowed, the operations have been impeded. At first, an attempt was made of uniting the two ends, by means of arches, formed with large loose stones; and filling up the apertures, one by one; but this having been found impracticable, from the sea sweeping several of them away, the former plan of throwing down stones at each end, was again adopted. Through this gap the tide ran with amazing rapidity, and tremendous force; and the most favourable state of it must therefore be chosen, for the completion of the work. It does not however appear, when this desideratum is effected, that every obstacle will be removed. For it is observable, the embankment, having been principally composed of loose rocky fragments, the tide in both its influent and refluent state runs through in several places. The question therefore seems to be dubious, whether or not the sea will be propitious, or unpropitious to the design. Should it throw up by deposition a quantity of sand, so as to form an inclined plane, or shelving heap, against the embankment, the work may probably stand for ages; but if in its vagaries the sands should be shifted to another quarter, the action and re-action of back and front waters must inevitably mar the whole. This, however, it is most devoutly to be desired may never happen, as every lover of his country and admirer of useful projects, will most cordially wish the patriotic spirit, that commenced, may see a successful issue to the great undertaking; and be rewarded by the fine estate it was intended to realize. The quantity of land, that will be thus regained, should the scheme happily succeed, is about five thousand acres, exclusive of what will in consequence be drained or secured from the injuries of floods: out of which land so drained and secured, Mr. M. will be entitled to one fifth part; or a portion of the annual value to that amount.

On

On a portion of the former regenerated tract, nine feet beneath low water mark, stands the small town of TREMADOC.* The shape is an oblong square, the eastern side of which is by a handsome market house, over which are good assembly rooms. On the other sides of the area range the houses, which are recently, and well built. A small church, in the pointed style, is situated on one side of an intended new street; and on the other, a neat place of worship for Protestant dissenters. Thus Mr. M. seems, with a truly tolerant spirit, to have endeavoured to accommodate the inhabitants of his new town, with respect to their religious tenets; in a commercial view also, by the establishment of a bank; and the traveller is not forgotten: for exclusive of several other public-houses, the Tremadoc Arms is a respectable and comfortable inn. Several good houses have been lately erected in the vicinity; and at a small distance from the town is,

TANY YR ALT the residence of *William Alexander Madocks, Esq.* This is a neat modern mansion, constructed on a plan indicative of considerable architectural taste; and elevated on a lofty rock, overlooking the town, amidst flourishing plantations, together with its singularly neat lodge, assumes a picturesque and pleasing appearance. The way from hence, towards Beddgelert lies for some distance, under perpendicular cliffs of great height, full of chasms and fissures; and after heavy rains, or long continued frosts, immense masses are detached from the impending precipices, and fall with a tremendous crash; bestrewing the margin of the road with numerous fragments of rock, and at times some are of sufficient magnitude, to obstruct the passage. This road, extending on the northern side of the Traeth mawr, when the tide is at flood, from the effect produced by such a fine piece of water, and the opposite scenery of the Merionethshire coast; affords a very delightful ride to

* This place, lately risen, as it were, out of the sea, is twenty miles south of Caernarvon, nineteen south-west of Capel Curig, ten north of Harlech, and seven west of Beddgelert.

PONT-ABER-GLASLLYN.* This *bridge*, which connects Caernarvonshire with Merionethshire, and forms the principal communication between the two counties, consists of one wide stone arch of thirty feet chord, thrown over a roaring water fall, and struck from two perpendicular precipices; it however exhibits nothing extraordinary in the structure; but the scenery around is most magnificently striking. "Here," says Mr. Wyndham, "we paused---the grandeur of the scene before us impressed a silent admiration on our senses. We at length moved slowly onward, contemplating the wonderful chasm. An impending craggy cliff, at least 800 feet high, projects from every part of its broken front, stupendous rocks of the most capricious forms, and shadows, a most translucid torrent, which rages like a cataract amid the huge ruins fallen from the mountain. The disjointed fragments of the opposite declivity, crushing their mouldering props, seem scarcely prevented from overwhelming the narrow ridge, which forms the road† on the brink of the flood. The romantic imagination of *Salvator Rosa* was never fired with a more tremendous idea, nor has his extravagant pencil ever produced a bolder precipice."‡ Nothing is opposed to the eye, but a series of the rudest cliffs, consisting of similar strata, divided by a serpentine chasm, and raised tier upon tier, high piled from earth to heaven, they seem to bid

* This is frequently denominated the *Devil's Bridge*, an appellation, that appears to have originated in an error of the author of "The Letters from Snowdon," who has confounded it with *Pont ar Monach*, in the county of Cardigan; a remarkable arch extending over a much narrower and deeper chasm. The description there given has misled many a travellers, who like Mr. Bingley, had previously expected to "see an arch thrown across a deep narrow valley, and hanging as it were in mid air; but how disappointed, to find it a bridge very little out of the usual form."

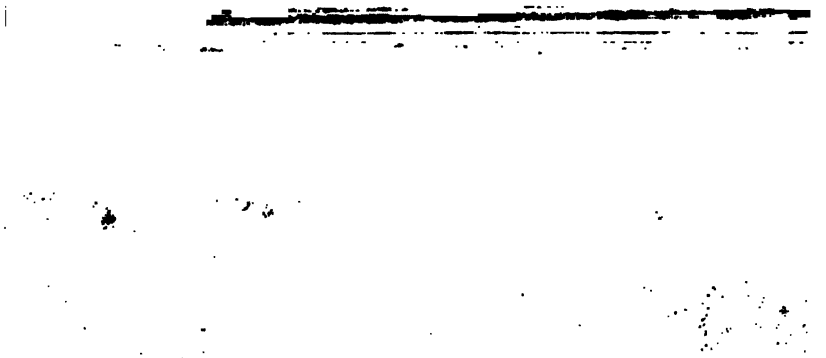
† This road which so late as Mr. Pennant's visit, after being formed with incredible labour, has lately been sufficiently widened to permit carriages to pass each other, and is bounded on the lower side with a stone wall.

‡ A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales, p. 156.

Engraved by Starry, from a Drawing by J.T. Neale. *for the Beauties of England and Wales.*

PONT ABERGLASLYN
North Wales.

London: Published by John Harris, 11 Pond Church Yard, Sept. 1st 1814.



bid defiance to the traveller's advance, and prohibit all further access to the alpine heights before him.

" Fled are fairy views of hill and dale,
Sublimely thron'd on the steep mountain brow
Stern Nature frowns; her desolating rage
Driving the whirlwind, or swoln flood or blast
Of fiery air imprison'd, from their base
Has wildly hurl'd th' uplifted rocks around
The gloomy pass where Aberglasllyn's arch
Yawns o'er the torrent. The disjointed crags
O'er the steep precipice in fragments vast
Impending, to th' astonished mind recal
The fabled horrors by demoniac force
Of Lapland wizards wrought, who borne upon
The whirlwind's wing, what time the vext sea
Dash'd against Norwegia's cliffs, to solid mass
Turned the swollen billows, and the o'er hanging waves
Fix'd e'er they fell."

With every deference to the learned translator of Giraldus, from the tenor of the narrative this must have been the spot, where several of the princes of Meirion's people, received from archbishop Baldwin, the sign of the cross; and this extraordinary pass, the scenery, that induced the monk to observe, " This territory of Conan, and particularly Merionyth, is the rudest and roughest district of all Wales; the ridges of its mountains are very high and narrow, terminating in sharp peaks, and so irregularly jumbled together, that if the shepherds conversing together from their summits should agree to meet, they could scarcely effect their purpose in the course of the whole day."*

Through this astonishing ravine flows, or rather tumbles, a broad, and at times, a powerful river, formed by two streams, issuing out of several lakes on the south-western side of Snowdon; one of which is denominated, the *Glas-llyn*, or blue-lake, from its waters frequently assuming that colour by the reflection of passing clouds. A little above the bridge, is a small cataract,

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 78.

or perpendicular ledge of rock, which forms a remarkable salmon leap. Here travellers are frequently amused,* by observing the fish in the season, making their efforts to surmount the barrier, for the purpose of depositing their spawn in the sandy shallows. A salmon fishery was established here at a very early period. The salmon was esteemed the most valuable fish among the Welsh, enumerated in their list of game, and received the cognizance of the laws, for its preservation. The weir at this place was vested in the crown, during the reign of Henry the fourth, from whom it was rented by Robert ap Meredydd. It is now private property, let to some fishermen, for a small annual rent. Near the bridge, in the circumjacent lofty cliffs, are several vertical shafts, which have been sunk in quest of copper, and several adits or levels, driven for draining, &c. Though the ore obtained was a grey sulphate of copper, of a rich quality, yielding from five to ten per cent of metal; yet, till very lately, little advantage was derived from the concern. A company some time since obtained a lease of the mountain from the proprietor, Mr. Lloyd, and having placed an intelligent agent in a house near the mines, and erected a stamping-mill with other machinery, the work is now conducted with spirit, and promises to become a profitable speculation.

Every step in this sublime, and unrivalled pass, unfolds new scenery; the strata assume all shapes, and all colours, from the lightest grey to the darkest hues of brown and black: and when the sun emerges from behind the enveloping clouds, the variegated summits are enriched with the most brilliant tints of light, and gold. The mountains now diverge and open into a kind of *trivium*, where three narrow vallies meet. Near the conflux

* It is at the latter end of the year, seldom before October, that the Salmon leave the sea, and press up towards the fresh water; hence the disappointment of many, who have in the *summer* months "waited on the bridge for a considerable time, in order to see the fish perform the feat of agility." They effect it by bending their tails to their mouths, thus forming a circular spring, and then giving a sudden jerk. This property is alluded to by the piscatory poet. Ausonius, in his admirable descriptive poem, intitled "*Mosella*."

conflux of the Colwyn and the Glasllyn, stands the small village of *Beddgelert*. Here was once a *priory*, dedicated to St. Mary, for monks of the Augustine order;* the foundation of which Tanner ascribes to the last Llewelyn: but except Bardsey, this was probably the most ancient monastic institution in North Wales. For it appears from grants of lands, made by divers benefactors, that it subsisted long prior to that period: and Rymer recites, in his Fœdera,† a charter in which certain lands were bestowed on it by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, who commenced his reign in the year 1194. A traditionary account, recorded by the bards, states that he was the founder, and that on a most extraordinary occasion. The prince had a hunting seat at this place, and during the absence of the family, a wolf entered the house, and Llewelyn returning first, was met at the door by his favourite greyhound Gelert,‡ whose mouth was covered with blood. The prince alarmed at the circumstance, hastened to the nursery, where he found the cradle overturned, and the ground wet with gore. In his momentary alarm for the fate of his infant son, supposing it had been killed by the dog, he drew his sword, and stabbed the animal while caressing his master. But what was the consternation of the latter, when on turning up the cradle, he found his son alive, and sleeping by the side of the wolf; which had been slain by the faithful and vigilant Gelert. The circumstance appears to have had such an effect on the prince's mind, that he erected a tomb over the dog's grave, on the spot, where subsequently the conventual church was built, which was, from this incident, denominated *Bedd Gelert*, or the grave of Gelert. Here he also

 founded

* Mr. Pennant says, "There is reason to suppose they might have been of that class, called *Gilbertines*; and consisted of both men and women, who lived under the same roof, but strictly separated from each other, by a wall; as I discovered a piece of ground, near the church, called *Doly Lleian*, or the meadow of the nun." Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 355.

† Tom. II. 316.

‡ This dog had been a present to Llewelyn, from his father-in-law, king John.

founded a monastery for the good of his soul, and as a grateful offering to divine Providence, for the preservation of his child.

In the year 1289 it was severely injured by fire, when Edward the First, by his sole munificence, repaired the damages; and bishop Anian, as an inducement for benefactors to come forward, and enable the prior to use his accustomed hospitality; remitted by an indulgence, forty days, of any penance, they might previously have been enjoined, for past transgressions. It was given by Henry the Eighth, in 1535, to the Abbey of Chertsey in Surry; and the annual revenues, at the Dissolution, amounted by Dugdale's valuation to 72l. 8s. 8d.; by Speed's 69l. 3s. 8d. No part of the building now remains, but it is probable the present church has at times, been repaired out of the ruins.

The village consists of a few straggling cottages, and one little distinguished from the rest, was a few years past the only place, where the traveller could obtain refreshment. He will now find a comfortable inn, with excellent accommodations; whether he proceeds on horseback, or in a carriage: and a more pleasing, or convenient station he cannot take, for making excursions to some of the most interesting scenes in this, and the adjacent county.

After passing between the two small lakes of *Llyn y cader*, and *Llyn y Dywarchen* the fine expansive piece of water, called *Llyn Cawellyn*, presents itself, at the foot of Mynydd mawr, a vast precipice, receding inwards in a semilunar shape, forming a bold barrier to the lake, which is more than a mile and a half in length, and nearly three quarters in breadth. The waters are so translucid, that the reflections of the passing clouds over its surface, in different state of weather, produce a highly pleasing, and diversified effect. Cawellyn abounds with the *red char*,* the Salmo alpinus of Linnæus, a fish peculiar to alpine lakes. The char fishing generally commences about the beginning of January, and continues for a month; sometimes longer.

* In Welsh *Torgoch*, or red bellies.

NANT MILL,
Caernarvonshire.

longer. They are caught with nets, no instance having been recorded, of their having been taken by angling. Calm frosty weather is the most favourable to the sport, because it is the spawning season: for during the rest of the year the fish keep in deep water at the bottom of the lake. They are about eight or nine inches in length, and considered delicious eating. At the end of the lake, on a lofty rock, that constitutes a part of Mynydd mawr, stood *Castell Cidwm*, one of the forts erected for the defence of this avenue into the country; the other, long since demolished, was situated at Nant, near the foot of Moel Eilio.

NANT a small neat mansion-house, standing on the eastern side of the road upon a pleasing elevation, is a seat and occasional residence, belonging to *Sir Robert Williams, Bart.*

Beyond a mountainous pass called *Drws y coed*,* are two fine expanses of water, adjacent to each other, denominated *Llinnieu Nantlle*. From these by the traveller reverting his position, and looking through the vista, the summits of Snowdon appear full in view; and from these *Wilson* sketched his grand and inimitable painting, of that prince of mountains.

To the north east of Beddgelert the mountains recede from each other, leaving a small opening, which constitutes the highly romantic pass of NANT HWYNAN, or *Nant Gwynant*, the valley of waters.† This Mr Pennant styles, "the most beautiful vale in Snowdonia; and truly for six miles of the extent, its picturesque features stand unrivalled. It affords such multifarious scenery, composed of luxuriant meads, watered by expansive lakes,

* The strata about this place exhibit strong indications of minerals, and a very large mining concern for copper, was some years since carried on for a time; but from the mine being exhausted, or the low price of the metal, the work was abandoned: and the proprietors, it is said, found themselves, on closing the account, considerable losers by the undertakings.

† "Possibly *Nantkwynen* might be originally *Nant Gwynen*, Gwy meaning water, and nen the top, or summit, which may be rendered water falling from above; or perhaps *Nankwynen* might derive its name from *Gwy nant* i. e. The watery vale." Williams's Observations, &c. p. 50.

whence issue numerous streams, that meander towards the sea; and circumvented by august boundaries, finely clothed with wood far up their sides, above which they lift their bare and rugged summits to the skies in all the diversity of colouring; so that the beauty and order, so admirably described by the elegant Mason, are here actually exhibited to the enraptured view.

> " Vivid green,
> Warm brown, and black opake, the foreground bears
> Conspicuous. Sober olive coldly marks
> The second distance. Thence the third declines
> In softer blue, or lessening still, is lost in
> Faintest purple."

About a short mile up this valley, on the left, rises a lofty rock forming part of the mountain barrier, on which it is said *Vortigern* had his residence previous to his final retreat from the persecution of his subjects, to Nant Gwrtheyrn in the vicinity of Nefyn. This he bestowed upon his favourite soothsayer, *Ambrosius*; and the spot still retains the appellation of *Dinas Emrys*, or the fort of Ambrossius, called in Wesh *Merddin Emrys*. On the top of this precipitous rock, is a considerable area, the accessible part of which is defended by two large ramparts: within this are the remains of a stone-building, about ten yards in length; and the walls, though built without mortar, appear very thick and strong. Near this, a place, allusive to the magical story of Vortigern and his court, is called *Cell y dewiniaid*, or the cell of the Diviners.

> Here, " Prophetic Merlin sate, when to the British king
> The changes long to come, auspiciously, he told.
> And from the top of Brith, so high and wond'rous steep
> Where Dinas Emris stood, shewed where the serpent fought,
> The *white* that tore the *red*, from whence the prophet wrought
> The Briton's sad decay, then shortly to ensure."*

This

* Drayton's Polyolbion Song. X. where in Selden's notes will be found a curious and circumstantial account of this wonderful personage, and his supernatural exploits. Mathew of Westminster has also given a long detail of

This Merddin is represented in legendary story, as the son of a vestal virgin, begotten by an *incubus;* consequently endued with miraculous and predictive powers;* and numerous prophecies are attributed to him, the copying, or recital of which, was prohibited by the council of Trent. But the traveller will pleasurably turn away from the recollection of such absurdities, to view the beautiful *Lyn y Dinas*, filling the vale with its expansive waters; favoured for a large and well-flavoured trout; and affording the effects of contrast and vividity to the surrounding scenery. Two miles beyond this rises, with unwieldy bulk, *Y Aran*, under which is a romantic hollow, denominated *Cwm Llan*, extending on the left towards Snowdon, whose summit is here finely visible between the intervening mountains. Numerous trees, issuing out of the rocky clefts, at the feet and sides, tend greatly to relieve the eye from the fatiguing dull uniformity of the mountain. At the same time a neat modern mansion, embosomed in woods, with a small lawn in front, forms a fine close to the upper end of the lake. The mountains here converge, but soon recede, and another lake *Llyn Gwynant*,† presents itself to view. This is about three quarters of a mile in length, and nearly fills the valley, leaving little more than space for the continuation of the road. Near this are the ruins of a small chapel, erected and endowed by a *Mr. John Williams*, a goldsmith in London.‡ Near the upper part

the latter traits of character, in the life of Vortigern; and a full description of Merlin's prophecies. These written in prose, were translated into Latin by Geoffrey of Monmouth; and an English edition, 4to. was published, with his life annexed, in London, 1641.

* Merddin appears to have been an able mathematician, astronomer, and poet, qualifications sufficient to obtain for him, in the days of general ignorance, the name of *magician*. He was probably bard and counsellor to Vertigern, as he subsequently was to the successor of that prince, Ambrosius, who bestowed upon him the honourable distinction of his own name.

† This lake is denominated *Llyn Gwinedd*, in Evans's map of North Wales.

‡ Born in this vale, he went on adventures, in early life, to the metropolis, where he accumulated a considerable fortune, and then retired to his native place, to spend, in religious quietude, the remainder of his days. He was a distinguished collecting antiquary; and the person, it is said, who furnished Michael Drayton, the poet, with Leland's posthumous papers.

part of the vale are two immense fragments of rock, one of which is in shape, like the gable of a large house; and far exceeds in bulk the enormous *Bowdar* stone, near Derwentwater in Borrowdale. Here the mountain barrier divides, opening into Nantperis, and further into Nant Cerrig; on the right the lofty *Shiabod* lifts his dark brown head, and on the left is the cataract *Rhaiadr Cwm dyli.* It consists of two distinct waterfalls, formed by a rivulet, issuing from the alpine pool in the mountains above, called *Llyn Llwydaw.* This, interrupted by two rocky ledges, breaks in foam and spray down their broken fronts; and, during rainy weather, produces a grand effect.

Near Llyn Cawellyn, about the midway between Beddgellert and Caernarvon, is the usual mode of ascent to Snowdon, near which is a small inn, the residence of an intelligent and useful guide. Mr. Bingley selected this for one of his alpine excursions. "We first went along some meadows, which extend up the sides of the mountain, for about half a mile. Leaving these, after some time, we came to Bwlch Cwm Brwynog, *The hollow of the vale of Brwynog*, a kind of gap between the mountains which overlook that vale. This place is reckoned about half way to the top, and persons who visit the mountain on horse-back, usually ride thus far, leaving their horses here to the care of their servants till they return. We passed by Llyn Ffynnon y Gwas, *The Servant's Pool.* The path I found all the way exceedingly tiresome. A little above the pool I had to pass for near a quarter of a mile over immense masses of rocks, lying over each other in almost every direction, and entirely destitute of vegetation.* The view from the summit I found beyond my expectation extensive. From this point the eye is able to trace, on a clear day, part of the coast, with the hills of Scotland; the high mountains of Westmoreland and Cumberland; and, on this side, some of the hills of Lancashire. When the atmosphere is very transparent, even part of the county of Wicklow, and the whole of the Isle of Man,

* A track lately cut for the passing of sledges from the copper mine at the foot of *Clogwyn y Garnedd*, has in some degree obviated these difficulties.

SNOWDEN,
North Wales.

Man, become visible. The immediately surrounding mountains of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire all seem directly under the eye, and the highest of the whole appear from this station much lower than Snowdon. Many of the vales were exposed to the view, which, by their verdure, relieved the eye from the dreary scene of barren rocks. The numerous pools visible from hence, betwixt thirty and forty, lend also a varied character to the prospect. The mountain itself, from the summit, seems as it were propped by five immense rocks as bultresses. These are Crib y Ddistill and Crib Coch, between Llanberis and Capel Curig; Lliewedd towards Nan Hwynan; Clawdd Coch towards Beddgelert; and Lechog, the mountain which forms the south-side of the vale of Llanberis, towards Dolbadarn.

The summit of Snowdon is so frequently enveloped in clouds and mist, that, except when the weather is perfectly fine and settled, the traveller through this country will find it somewhat difficult to have a day sufficiently clear to permit him to ascend the mountain. When the wind blows from the west it is almost always completely covered; and at other times, even when the state of the weather seems favourable, it will often become suddenly enveloped, and will remain in that state for hours. Most persons, however, agree, that the prospects are the more interesting, as they are more varied, when the clouds just cover the summit. The following description of the scenery from Snowdon when the mountain is in this state is perfectly accurate:

> Now high and swift flits the thin rack along
> Skirted with rainbow dies, now deep below
> (While the fierce sun strikes the illumin'd top)
> Slow sails the gloomy storm, and all beneath
> By vaporous exhalation hid, lies lost
> In darkness; save at once where drifted mists
> Cut by strong gusts of eddying winds, expose
> The transitory scene.
> Now swift on either side the gather'd clouds,
> As by a sudden touch of magic, wide

Recede

Recede, and the fair face of heaven and earth
Appears. Amid the vast horizon's stretch,
In restless gaze the eye of wonder darts
O'er the expanse; mountains on mountains pil'd,
And winding bays, and promontories huge,
Lakes and meandering rivers, from their source
Traced to the distant ocean."*

Mr. Warner,† appears to have taken an unusual direction for obtaining a view of the scenic grandeur, exhibited to the sight from the summit of the majestic Snowdon. The pedestrian and his companions, attended by a guide, ascended from Nant Gwynant, keeping to the left of Y Aran mountain above *Cwm Llan*, and passing the lofty Llidiaw; and after bustling and toiling up a tremendously rugged steep, *in two hours* they attained the object of their wishes, a prospect, under a clear sky, from the usually cloud-capt peak of Snowdon. Neither of these, however, is the preferable route, as will appear from the following brief, but useful, directions, furnished by a gentleman who has frequently made excursions up the mountain, and resides near its base.

"The best route to the top of Snowdon is either to walk, ride on horseback, or take a chaise, to a place called Cwm y Glo-Llanrug, about four miles from Caernarvon, and a good road; there take boat up the lower Llan Beris lake; more properly called Llyn Padarn; then land on the little isthmus between the pools; just below the old castle, Dol Badarn, take a guide from thence, and ascend by Caunant Mawr, the great chasm, where is a fine water-fall; climb up along the south-side of the ridge separating Llan Beris Hollow, from Cwm Brwynog, another hollow or mountain flat, then go up in sight of Llyn Du Yr Arddu, which you must leave on the right; the steep rock above the Arddu Pool is celebrated amongst botanists; here the Anthericum serotinum grows, &c. then you ascend along a steep place, called Llechwedd y Re, from thence to the famous cold

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 250—262, &c.
† Walk through Wales in August, 1797, p. 126.

cold spring, or well, which is within a mile of the highest peak, called Wyddva, the conspicuous. The steep, and almost inaccessible, crags on the north-side of this highest summit of Snowdon, Clogwyn y Garnedd, are well known to botanists as the habitats of rare alpine or mountain plants; but the traversing and climbing them is very hazardous, and often dangerous; as they are in general very slippery, and, after rain, fragments of rocks give way, and roll down with a thundering noise to the pools below.

"The distance from Dol Badarn Castle to the top of Snowdon is about four miles. The usual ascent now is from Quethlinn pools (Llyn Cwellyn in Welsh, anciently called Llyn Tauddenni, as Leland informs us); but this route is very boggy and wet in some places, and extremely rocky and stony in others: the distance from this pool is much the same as that from Dol Badarn Castle, viz. about four miles. Another ascent begins about three miles on the Caernarvon side of the Bethgelert road: this is extremely steep and dangerous, as the ridge Clawdd Coch, along which you ascend, is not above two yards wide for a considerable way, and you may drop a stone from each hand, and before they would stop they would be at the distance of two miles from each other; as one would roll a mile on the west side, and the other the same distance to the east."*

Mr. Pennant took the most eligible of these, and proceeded by the side, accessible from Nantperis, which he thus pleasingly describes. "In the course of our ascent, saw on the left, above the cwm, Moel y Cynghorion, or the hill of Council. Pass through Bwlch y Macs-cwm, and skirt the side of Snowdon, till we reach Bwlch y Cwm Brwynog, where the ascent becomes very difficult, on account of its vast steepness. People here usually quit their horses. We began a toilsome march, clambering among the rocks. On the left were the precipices over Cwm Brwynog, with Llyn du yr Arddwy at their

* Communicated in a letter from that distinguished and eminent British antiquary, the Rev. Peter Williams, rector of Llanrug and Llanberis.

their foot. On our right were those over the small lakes Llyn Glas, Llyn-y-Nadroedd, and Llyn Goch. The last is the highest on this side of the mountain; and on whose margins, we were told, that, in days of fairies, those diminutive gentry kept their revels. This space between precipice and precipice, formed a shoot, and no very agreeable isthmus, till we reached a verdant expanse, which gave us some respite, before we labored up another series of broken crags: after these, is a second smooth tract, which reaches almost to the summit, which, by way of pre-eminence, is styled Y WYDDFA, or The Conspicuous. It rises almost to a point, or, at best, there is but one room for a circular wall of loose stones, within which travellers usually take their repast.

The mountain from hence seems propped by four vast buttresses; between which are four deep cwms, or hollows: each, excepting one, has one or more lakes, lodged in its distant bottom. The nearest was Ffynnon Las, or the Green Well, lying immediately below us: one of the company had the curiosity to descend a very bad way to a jutting rock, that impended over the monstrous precipice; and he seemed like Mercury ready to take his flight from the summit of Atlas. The waters of Ffynnon Las, from this height, appeared black and unfathomable, and the edges quite green. From thence is a succession of bottoms, surrounded by lofty and rugged hills, the greatest part of whose sides are perfectly mural, and form the most magnificent amphitheatre in nature. The Wyddfa is on one side; Crib-y-distill, with its serrated tops, on another; Crib Goch, a ridge of fiery redness, appears beneath the preceding; and opposite to it is the boundary called Lliwedd. Another very singular support to this mountain is Y Clawdd Goch, rising into a sharp ridge, so narrow, as not to afford breadth even for a path.

The view from this exalted situation is unbounded. In a former tour, I saw from it the county of Chester, the high hills of Yorkshire, part of the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland: a plain view of the Isle of Man; and that of Anglesey

lay extended like a map beneath me, with every rill visible. I took much pains to see this prospect to advantage: sat up at a farm on the west till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and starry: towards morn, the stars faded away, and left a short interval of darkness, which was soon dispersed by the dawn of day. The body of the sun appeared more distinct, with the rotundity of the moon, before it rose high enough, to render its beams too brilliant for our sights. The sea which bounded the western part was gilt by its rays, first in slender streaks, at length glowing with redness. The prospect was disclosed like the gradual drawing up of a curtain in a theatre. We saw more and more, till the heat became so powerful, as to attract the mists from the various lakes, which, in a slight degree, obscured the prospect. The shadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and shewed its bicapitated form; the Wyddfa making one, the Crib-y-distill the other, head. I counted this time between twenty and thirty lakes, either in this county, or Meirionedd-shire. The day proved so excessively hot, that my journey cost me the skin of the lower part of my face, before I reached the resting-place, after the fatigue of the morning.

On this day, the sky was obscured very soon after I got up. A vast mist enveloped the whole circuit of the mountain. The prospect down was horrible. It gave an idea of numbers of abysses, concealed by a thick smoke, furiously circulating around us. Very often a gust of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a fine and distinct vista of lake and valley. Sometimes they opened only in one place; at others, in many at once, exhibiting a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, or chasms, in fifty different places. They then closed at once, and left us involved in darkness; in a small time they would separate again, and fly in wild eddies round the middle of the mountains, and expose, in parts, both tops and bases clear to our view. We descended from this various scene with great reluctance; but before we reached our horses, a thunder-storm overtook us. Its rolling among the mountains

was

was inexpressibly awful, the rain uncommonly heavy. We remounted our horses, and gained the bottom with great hazard. The little rills, which, on our ascent, trickled along the gullies on the sides of the mountains, were now swelled into torrents; and we and our steeds passed with the utmost risque of being swept away by these sudden waters. At length we arrived safe, yet sufficiently wet and weary, to our former quarters."*

"Sons of the world from busy towns and care,
Here greet Hygeia in untainted air,
Catch from her smiles the vivifying flame,
And grateful boast a renovated frame.
Here Nature prides in charms to *you* unknown,
Forms the rare plant and rears the Eagle's throne,
Where Ocean, Man and Mona---boundless themes
Can realize e'en Fancy's wildest dreams.
Here rivers rushing from the upland lake,
With distant roar, on rural stillness break;
Now, slow, serene, the placid currents creep,
Now, roll terrific from the threatening steep;
While rills unnumbered fill the fluid train
And proudly roll with Ogwen to the Main."†

LLOYD.

Snowdon, from ancient testimony, appears to have been held in as high veneration among the Britons, as the celebrated Ida among the Cretans, and Parnassus, connected with classic fame, of the Achaians. Like that, it is bifurcate, having its *Nissa* and *Cirrha*, its Crib y distill, and y wyddfa; and was, doubtless, an object of adoration, and invocation from the following passage, included in a series of Triambrics, each terminating with a moral precept; supposed to be the *Englynion*, or verses by which the Bardic instructors inculcated upon the minds of their auditors their oral Ethics.

"Eyry

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. II. p. 35.

† "The quantity of water which flows from the lakes of Snowdonia is very considerable; so much, that I doubt not, but collectively they would exceed the waters of the Thames before it meets the flux of the ocean." Pennant's Tours in Wales, Vol. II. p. 338.

"Eyry Mynydd, caled' grawn,
Dail ar gychwyn, Llynwyn llawn,
Nag ymddiried i estrawn."

"Nivean hill, the harvests grow
The leaves descend, the lakes o'erflow;
Confide in none thou dost not know."*

According to the testimony of Gildas, our ancestors worshipped mountains and rivers. It is certain they paid a particular veneration to them, and some were held peculiarly sacred. To the present day, it is said, and by many believed, that whoever sleeps a night upon the top of Snowdon, will wake up, as much inspired, as those who became poets, by taking a nap on the hill of Apollo.

"Here too, the Bards, when merit claim'd the meed,
The strain that gave to other days the deed,
Invok'd the *Hill* the verse-inspiring spring,
And quitted earth on Rapture's rising wing;
E'en now, unknown to cultivating care,
Some *genial plant* may feel this chilling air;
May bud, unseen, the village oak beneath,
Or bloom, unheeded, on the barren heath:
And though its tints Depression's mists may shroud,
Some beam may yet pervade th' incumbent cloud,
Some friendly hand its glowing dies may spread,
And shew its bloom on Flora's gayest bed."

LLOYD.

The following description of a descent into the vale of Llanberis seems elucidatory of the mountains, poet-making powers. "Occasional gusts of wind which now roared around us, swept away the pitchy cloud, that involved particular spots of the mountain, and discovered, immediately below us, huge rocks, abrupt precipices, and profound hollows, exciting emotions of astonishment and awe in the mind, which the eye darting down

 an

* A number of these tetrambic stanzas, each ending with a moral reflection, were collected by Llywarch Hen, a Cambrian prince; and have been translated by Mr. William Owen: a work previously alluded to in the Beauties.

an immense descent of vacuity and horror, conveyed to it under the dreadful image of inevitable destruction."

NANTPERIS, so justly celebrated for its sublime and diversified scenery, is a highly picturesque valley, bounded by the base of *Snowdon*, *Cefn cwm gafr*, the *Glyder fawr*, and *bach*, and the two *Lliders*; all ranging in the scale of first rate mountains. The upper part is narrow, through which a terrible horse path* ascends over craggy rocks, by what is termed *Gorphwysfa*, or the resting place, whence is a view of the valley which connects those of Nant Hwynant, and Capel Cerrig. Down the centre of this, denominated *Cwm glas* or the blue vale, the rocks rise almost perpendicularly on each side; and millions of huge fragments of every size and shape, detached by some violent convulsions of nature, lie rudely scattered at their base, forming a grand, but forbidding, fore-ground.† This part of the valley assumes no character, but that of a desolated waste, no features of softening beauty, none of those interesting charms which arise from sylvan, or cultivated verdure. But rocks, towering above rocks, till their summits reach the clouds, which, by their gloom, often add sublimity to the scene. Within these are deepened hollows, flanked by towering basaltic-shaped columns. In some parts three or four of these ranges, rising above each other, exhibit the most fantastic outlines imaginable. Receding in the distance, as they ascend in height, and ever varying in forms, and tints, the traveller is interested at every step, by their awfully impressive grandeur. Through this tremendous glen, extending four miles, an alpine torrent, issuing

* The nobility and gentry of the county have had it for some time in contemplation, to make a turnpike road through this valley, to communicate with the one extending from Capel Cerrig to Beddgelert. When this is accomplished, the traveller in Caernarvonshire will have no reason to complain on the subject of roads.

† Among these, an immense stone has fallen, so that two of its sides form an angle with the ground. This, by an additional small inclosure, some time since, served as an havodty, or summer residence, for a woman of the adjacent village.

issuing from the lakes above, rushes down its rupestrian bed, foaming and roaring over the huge masses of rock, which partially impede the progress of its waters, to the lakes below.

The village of LLANBERIS, situated where the cwm opens towards the north, and enlivened by some narrow verdant stripes and a few trees, the laggering rear of its once notable sylvan beauty; includes a small group of miserable cottages. The name is derived from *Peris*, a saint, and cardinal, who lived about the middle of the sixth century; a son of Helig ap Glanog. The valley is narrow and almost straight, nearly filled with two small lakes, celebrated, previous to the opening of the copper mines, for the abundance of the *red* and *golden char*. The upper lake, about a mile in length, and nearly half one in breadth, though the least, is the finest piece of water. The depth, is said, in places, to be one hundred and forty yards. The other is about a mile and a half long, but so narrow, as to assume rather the appearance of a river, than a lake. Between these a communication is formed by a stream, and out of the lower issues the river Rythel, which, after flowing in an irregular diffused manner, assumes at Caernarvon the name of Seiont.

On a rocky eminence, near the junction of the two lakes, stand the ruins of *Dolbadern Castle*, so denominated from having been erected on the verge of a piece of land, called *Padern's* meadow. This fortress, by the construction, is evidently of British origin, and probably the same which some historians describe under the appellation of *Bere* Castle, seated in a morass of this county; and which was inaccessible, but by a single causeway, carried through the narrow and rugged defiles of the mountains. It was doubtless built to defend the pass through Nantperis, into the interior of Snowdonia; but who was the founder, or at what period it was erected, is not ascertained. Mr. Pennant observes, "that it was evidently a Welsh prince. I was informed that it was Padarn Beisrydd, son of Idwal." If so, the era of its erection must be referred to the eighth or ninth century.* When well garrisoned, and provi-

 sioned,

* There were three sovereigns over Gwynedd of this name Idwal Iwrch,

sioned, it formed a barrier capable of long and obstinate resistance; and appears to have been frequently appropriated as a state prison.

Owen Gock, with his brother Llewelyn, had been appointed to the Northwallian throne, by the election of the Welsh nobility and gentry, convened for securing the lineal descent in British consanguinity. But, dissatisfied with a co-partnership in the government, he induced his younger brother, David, to join him in an insurrection, and engage in hostilities against Llewelyn, who had been, by the same authority, invested with a moiety. The three brothers having taken the field, a most sanguinary conflict ensued, in which the insurgent princes were defeated, taken prisoners, lodged in confinement;* and within the walls of this fortress, Owen miserably languished twenty years. During the long warfare maintained by Owen Glyndwr, in the reigns of Henry the Fourth and Fifth, Dolbadern Castle was occasionally in possession of each party, and often warmly contended for as the master key into Snowdonia.

The present remains cover the whole summit of the elevation, and consist of foundations of the exterior buildings, and the keep or citadel.† This is a circular tower constructed of the laminated schistose stone, abounding in the vicinity, and cemented with very strong mortar. The inner diameter is about twenty-seven feet, the height about ninety, and thickness of the walls eight. It appears to have consisted of three stories, exclusive of a vaulted basement, used as a dungeon; a few broken steps serve to shew, that the intercommunication was by a spiral staircase.

An insulated hill, at the foot of the lower lake, has upon it an agger

who reigned from A.D. 703 to 728; Idwal Voel, who succeeded to the sovereignty, A.D. 913, and died in 944; and Idwal ap Meirig, who was slain while defending the Island of Mona, by the Danish invader Sweyn, in the year 994.

* Warrington's History of Wales, Vol. II. p. 137.

† The place has long formed a ruinous heap, for Leland describes it as in a dilapidated state. "There is yet a *peca* of a tour, where Owen Gough brother to Lluelen, first prince, was yn prison." Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 45.

agger of loose stones, once a British fortification, still called *Caer Cwm y Glô*,

Half a mile south of the castle, at the termination of a deep glen, is a tremendous cataract, or waterfall, denominated *Cawnant mawr*. The ledge of rock is more than sixty feet in height. A mountain torrent, from Cwm Brwynog, rushes through a cleft in the superincumbent rock; and after issuing in a straight line for a few yards, it suddenly takes a slaunting direction, and over a broad portion of the strata, rolls its waters with thundering noise into the vale below.

This valley, which for centuries witnessed the most sanguinary scenes, is now become a theatre for the display of the arts, arising from more pacific times; and the wealth and comforts obtainable by applying human energies to subjects of science and utility, instead of rapine, plunder, and devastation. On the declivity of the mountain, on the eastern side of the lakes, denominated *Allt Dû*, or the dark cliff, is a large slate quarry, the property of Thomas Asheton Smith, Esq., situated high among the rocks: and the mode of conveying the slates down the almost precipitous descent, to the margin of the lake, is singularly awkward, and apparently very dangerous. The carts, each carrying about one ton of slates in winter, and two in summer, was drawn down a serpentine path by one horse in front, and one hooked on behind, to counteract the rapidity of motion, which otherwise would endanger the whole. A better method has, however, lately been adopted, by substituting a loaded sledge at the tail of the cart. And a still farther improvement, would be an inclined plane, with a proper apparatus attached.

The slates having been thus delivered on the margin of the lake, are carried in boats down to the end of the lower one, where other carts are in readiness to convey them to Caernarvon, whence they are shipped to Ireland, and coastwise to various parts of Great Britain. In the former case they are exempt from all impost; in the latter they pay a duty of about

thirty-four shillings per ton, or the thousand.* Slates of a general size, are charged both for tax and freightage by tale; but those of larger dimensions, as duchesses, countesses, &c. by the ton. These therefore are edged and weighed on the quay, in moveable wooden steelyards, previous to their being put on board the respective vessels.

The whole of the slates from Allt-du-quarry, are not sent to the port of Caernarvon; considerable quantities are taken on board at a small creek, opposite Moel y don ferry, down to which a new road for the purpose, has lately been opened from the quarry, over the mountains.

On the western side of the lakes, is another slate quarry called *Cefn dû*, worked by a company of gentlemen, resident at Caernarvon.

The slate strata, forming the secondary mountains in the Snowdonian range, run in a direction from north-east to south-west; but those in the former line, are finer both in colour and quality. The quarries at *Cilgywn*, in the parish of Llanllyfni, are rather coarse in the grain, and of a strong red colour; those of Llandegai are exceedingly smooth, and of a brilliant blue or slate grey; and the produce of Llanberis, are of an intermediate quality, and generally assume a reddish purple hue.

This interesting, as well as picturesque little valley, can boast of its mineral treasures. A valuable *copper* mine is situated on the side of the upper lake, about half a mile from the village. Several horizontal galleries, or levels, have been driven into the side of the mountain, which is composed chiefly of hard whinstone, and horn blende schistus. The ore, found in

* Slates and stone carried by coasting navigation from any part of Great Britain* are subjected to a duty of twenty per cent on the value, payable at the port of delivery. Thus it operates both on the material and the carriage. This duty, which amounts, on an average, to one-third the first cost of the article, with the price of freight, has tended greatly to throw a damp on the trade; and, were it not for the frequent evasions, would be still more injurious.

* 24 George III. c. 51.

in a matrix of quartz, is a rich sulphate of copper, of a fine yellow colour. The principal level is about two hundred yards in length, seven or eight feet high, and six wide. At the termination of this is an immense lofty cavern, whence ore has formerly been removed. In this a shaft, nearly sixty-feet, is sunk to a metallic bed; and near the bottom another fifty-feet in depth extends to one below. On the side of the principal cavern is a large one, apparently exhausted, or what is termed worked out. The ore, procured by blasting the rock, is conveyed along the level in small waggons, by a railroad, to the mouth of the mine; where women and children are employed, in breaking the lumps with hammers, and separating them into two sorts, viz. the richer, which is immediately carried down the lake in boats, and shipped for the founderies near Swansea; and the poorer kind that undergoes a previous process: this is taken to a *stamping mill*, where it is reduced to powder by means of six oaken beams, shod at bottom with iron; these placed vertically side by side, within a gauge in a large trough, are made to rise up and down for pulverising the fragments of ore, by the power of a large water wheel. This powder is carried by artificial streams into several reservoirs, where after repeated decantations, it becomes sufficiently separated from heterogeneous matters; and is then packed in bags for the use of the smelting-houses. Some of the ore has lately been roasted here, and a few pits formed for making ziment copper, like those already described in the vicinity of Parys mountain, in the island of Anglesea. The ore obtained is in general, what is called rich, on an average worth from twenty to twenty-five pounds per ton. But the value consequently varies with the price of copper.

This mineral enterprise was first "undertaken, about A. D. 1763 or 4; and though a vast quantity of copper ore was found, yet it fell infinitely short of rewarding the adventurers."* The mining, after having been discontinued for some years, was resumed by a company of gentlemen from Macclesfield;

* Williams's Observations, p. 64.

sold; but at present the concern is in the hands of Mr. Thomas Wright of Namptwich. Belonging to the same leasehold proprietor, is another mine, lately discovered, almost at the summit of Snowdon. It is upon the ridge called *Clogwyn y Arddwy*, notable from the time of Ray for rare and curious plants; and affords a very curious geological fact. At these, the men work alternately, that is, the summer half year, they attend to the mountain mine; and in winter, to the one, situate in the vale.

Llan Rug and Llandeiniolen, parishes comprise a flat, but not champagne country, between the base of the mountains and the Menai. The view in the retrospect of the lakes, and the inclosing mountainous scenery forms a striking contrast to the broad expanse, which now opens to the view of the astonished beholder. Thus emphatically and picturesquely described by a very observant traveller. "In the course of our descent," says Mr. Aikin, "speaking of a progress through Nantberis, where the rocks ended, we arrived at a plain of considerable dimensions, so covered with large rounded fragments of rock, as to resemble the plains, where Jove is fabled to have overwhelmed the giants with a shower of stones. To a mineralogist, or rather a geologist it is very interesting; *the rounded form of the stones*, which were of the same kind as those which compose the various rocks of Snowdon and its vicinity, naturally suggests the idea of the agency of water; especially as the descent is inwards towards the sea, and the plain itself not more than four or five miles distant: the size alone of the stone forbids the supposition of their having been carried to their present situation by man, and they are too far off from the mountains, to have rolled down into the plain, where they now lie. Further, the soil of the plain is like other alluvial soil, namely, gravel, and sand, or shingle."*

The antiquary will here find the remains of several fortified posts, constructed at an early period; of which *Dinas Dinorddwig*,

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c. p. 122.

dwig, is the principal. It is situated about half a mile south-east of the church of Llandeiniolen. An extensive area is surrounded by two ramparts of loose stones; which are again backed by two valla formed of earth, and two very deep fossa. A circular stone building within was probably the seat of the commandant; and has much the appearance of a *prætorium*. Mr. Pennant supposes this to have been a British post; but there are circumstantial reasons for supposing it, if not originally erected by the Romans, to have been occupied by that people. It lies between two of their chief stations, in this part of Britain, *Segontium* and *Conovium*; and the vestiges of paved roads after the Roman manner, corroborate the conjecture.

Llys Dinorddwig, in ruins, is said to have been a palace belonging to the last Northwallian sovereign, Llewelyn ap Gryffydd.

To the east of the church, in which are several ancient and large yew trees, one twenty-seven feet in girth, is a holy well, called *Ffynon Cegin Arthur*, or Arthur's kitchen water. This spring forms the source of the rivulet Cegin, which delivers its waters to the Menai, between Bangor and Penrhyn. The qualities of the water are salutiferous, for it is a strong chalybeate: and therefore without the aid of a miracle, or the influence of superstition, it has doubtless been efficacious in numerous cases, arising from deblity.

Vaenol House, delightfully situated in a noble grove of oaks, between Caernarvon and Bangor, is the residence of *Thomas Asheton Smith*, esq. It is a handsome modern structure, but so embosomed with trees, that it is only visible at one point of the road. The principal front is seen to most advantage from the Menai, whence the extensive sloping lawn, in the fore, and the dense woods in the back ground, contrasted with the maritime prospect, produce a most delightful effect.

Near Vaenol is a serpentine ravine, of rather more than a mile, extending in a direction from the sea to the mountains, called *Nant y Garth*. This was the valley, that afforded so

 much

much mirth to the Welsh crusaders, archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus de Barri, who traversed Cambria in the year 1118, preaching up with ardent zeal the service of the cross;* in which sacred service the former fell a sacrifice; having honourably and religiously ended his days in the holy land.

On their progress from Bardsey Island, through this county, the narrator of the journey proceeds thus to state: "the archbishop having by his sermon the next day, induced many persons to take the cross, we proceeded towards Bangor, passing through Caernarvon, that is, the castle of Arvon; it is called Arvon, the province opposite to Môn, because it is so situated with respect to the island of Mona. Our road leading us to a steep valley,† with many broken ascents and descents, we dismounted from our horses, and proceeded on foot, rehearsing, as it were by agreement, some experiments of our intended pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Having traversed the valley, and reached the opposite side with considerable fatigue, the archbishop, to rest himself and recover his breath, sat down on an oak which had been torn up by the violence of the winds; and relaxing into a pleasantry, highly laudable in a person of his approved gravity, thus addressed his attendants: 'who amongst you, in this company, can now delight our wearied ears by whistling? which is not easily done by people out of breath.

On

* As their discourses were entirely delivered in Latin, the effect produced on the audience must have arisen more from the reverence, superstition pays to pompous assumption, or impertinent folly, than from the convincing nature of logical disquisition, or the persuasive blandishments of imposing eloquence.

† I searched in vain for a valley which would answer the description here given by Giraldus, and the scene of so much pleasantry to the crusaders; for neither do the old or new road from Caernarvon to Bangor, in any way correspond; but I have since been informed, that there is a valley called Nant y Garth (near the residence of Asheton Smith, Esq. at Vaenol,) which terminates at about half a mile's distance from the Menai, and therefore not observable from the road; it is a serpentine ravine of more than a mile, in a direction towards the mountains, and probably that which the crusaders passed on their journey to Bangor.

On affirming that he could if he thought fit, the sweet notes are heard in an adjoining wood, of a bird, which some call a wood-pecker; and others, with great propriety, an aureolus. The wood-pecker is called in French, pic, and with its strong bill, perforates oak trees; the other bird is called an aureolus, from the golden tints of its feathers; and at certain seasons utters a sweet whistling note, instead of a song.* Some persons having remarked that the nightingale was never heard in this country, the archbishop, with a significant smile, replied, "the nightingale followed wise counsel, and never came into Wales; but we, unwise counsel, who have penetrated and gone through it." We remained that night at Bangor, the metropolitan see of North Wales, and were well entertained by the bishop of the diocese.† On the next day, mass being celebrated by the archbishop before the high altar, the bishop of that see, at the instance of the archbishop and other persons, more importunate than persuasive, was compelled to take the cross, to the general concern of all his people, who expressed their grief on this occasion, by loud and lamentable vociferations."‡

BANGOR,

A CITY which derives its name, from *Ban* superior, and *Cor* a society, that is *the chief choir*,§ received the additional appellation

* I have not been able to ascertain the bird here alluded to by our author, under the title of aureolus. *Aureolus Galbula*. E.

† Guianus, or Guy Ruffyus, dean of Waltham in Essex, and consecrated to this see, at Ambresbury, Wilts, in May, 1177. In the year 1188, he attended Baldwin in his progress through Wales, and died about two years afterwards.

‡ Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 84.

§ On the first establishment of Christianity in Britain, the particular assemblies of people for the purpose of divine worship, were designated by the appellation cor, a circle, society, or class. These *Coras* afterwards received the name of their respective evangelical instructors, as cor Cybi, cor Illtud, cor Deinial, &c, &c. when any one of these were invested with paramount authority,

pellation of *vawr* great, to distinguish it from Bangor *Iscoed*, in the county of Flint. This place, if reliance may be placed on historic records, has a claim to high antiquity. Leland, from the Chronicle of John Harding, states, that Condage, a British prince, erected here a temple, and dedicated it to *Minerva*.* Though no notice of Bangor appears in the Itineraries, yet a grit stone, three feet four inches long, by eighteen inches broad, bearing the following Roman inscription was discovered at Tycoch, two miles distant :

N-V M.N C-
IMP- CAESAR - M.
AVREL - ANTONINVS
PIVS P IX - AVC - ARAB.

No certain account, however, occurs, till the year 525. When *Dunot* or *Deiniol*, son of Dinawd, abbot of Bangôr-Iscoed, founded here a MONASTERY, and made the place a cell to the prior institution.

In this place, the historian Cressy, says, that "Malgo Conan, not long after built a city, which for the beauty of its situation, he called Bancôr." It was here that this prince, better known under the name of *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, A. D. 552, struck with remorse for the numerous crimes of his past life, resolved to devote his future days to the austerities of a cloister; but quickly relinquished the design, re-assumed the affairs of government, and returned to his former criminal habits; contenting himself with converting the conventual church into a cathedral : and like those gentry, which Swift humourously describes, as "growing wondrously virtuous in their old age, make a sacrifice to God, of the devil's leavings;" bestowing by a posthumous bequest, a few lands and franchises on the members of the chapter.†

A CASTLE,

authority, over certain others, it assumed the distinctive name of *Ban-cor*, or the supreme society.

* Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 425.

† Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Vol. I, p. 120.

A CASTLE, was erected here, in the reign of William Rufus, by the celebrated warrior, *Hugh, earl of Chester*: with a view of carrying on with greater security, and prospect of success, his marauding designs against the island of Anglesea. This fortress, which has been generally overlooked, stood upon a precipitous hill, about a quarter of a mile distant on the east of the present city, between it and the Menai. The foundations of three sides are still traceable, extending on the south-east side, one hundred and twenty yards; on the south-west, sixty-six; on the north-east, forty; and the fourth was so naturally strong, as to render any artificial defence, intirely unnecessary; when it was demolished is not known; probably, as soon as the earl had effected, or rather abandoned, his design.

THE DIOCESE of Bangor arose out of the monastic institution, and owed its constitution, and endowment, as previously noticed, to the most profligate of the Northwallian sovereigns, *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, who constituted *Deiniol* its first bishop.* The most concise biographical sketch of the numerous successors to the see, would require a volume; and to furnish a mere list of names, would be incompatible with the nature of the present work.

What the original extent was, does not appear upon record. The present jurisdiction comprises the whole of Anglesea, with Caernarvonshire, except the parishes of Llysfaen, Eglwys Rhôs and Llangystenin, which belong to St. Asaph; and Llanbeblic annexed to the see of Chester; more than a moiety of Merionethshire; fourteen parishes in Denbighshire; and seven in the county of Montgomery.

FOR ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT it is divided into three archdeaconries, viz. Bangor, Anglesea, and Merioneth; and ten rural deaneries. From two of the archdeaconries being usually held in commendam by the bishop, Merioneth is the only one, in which officialities occur. This includes only fourteen parishes, and the archdeacon appears to possess no further

* Mona Antiqua, p. 147.

ther powers, than "to visit and receive the annual procurations; he being obliged to return the *comperta* and *delecta* into the consistorial court."*

By one computation the number of parishes amounts to one hundred and seven, and by another to one hundred and twelve; of which, thirty are impropriations. But exclusive of these may be added divers chapels, which will nearly double the number; for, according to Camden, they are what have been generally deemed parochial churches, seventy-four in Anglesea; and in Caernarvonshire, sixty-eight.

The *annual revenues* of the Bishopric, as valued in the king's books, amount to 131l. 16s. 3d. Those of the archdeaconry of Bangor to 48l. 6s. 3d.; and of Anglesea, 58l. 10s. 7½d.; forming an aggregate of 239l. 13s. 1½d. per annum. The prelate is a suffragan to the metropolitan see of Canterbury.

This diocese was very considerably benefited, by bishop *Anian*, who sate here in the reign of Edward the first. He being in high favour with the monarch, obtained various privileges and immunities; and, indeed, as the temporalities had been confiscated, in the time of Henry the third, what little now belongs to the bishopric, may be said to have been acquired by that prelate. He procured the grant of Bangor House in Shoe-lane, London; and in 1282, for the better support of the episcopal dignity, obtained, by letters patent, from the Crown, the return of writs, waifs, strays, &c. in his respective manors, and had the villages of Trefaynon, Abydon, and Bodychan annexed. And further in the year 1284, Edward, afterwards the second, being born in the Castle of Caernarvon, the bishop had the honour of baptizing that prince, for the administration of which sacrament, he received a grant of the ferries, Porthaethwy and Cadnant; and the manors of Bangor, Castell-mawr, Garthgogs, in the county of Caernarvon, with Cantred and Treffos, in the Isle of Anglesea. Two years afterwards he had a confirmation to himself and successors of a tertiarian

* Willis's Survey of the Cathedral Church of Bangor, p. 52.

tiarian portion of the tithes, issuing out of the king's demesnes, mills, and lead mines in England and Wales.* And having had a survey made of tenures belonging to the diocese, he caused the same to be registered in the extent book. The revenues of the bishopric are principally derived from impropriations and commendams; the prelate holding, exclusively of the archdeaconries of Anglesea and Bangor, the sinecure rectory of Llanrhaiader, in the county of Denbigh; do. Llandyfnam in the Island of Anglesea; and do. Llanynys, annexed by act of parliament to the see in lieu of *mortuaries*.† By an ancient custom a mortuary, or *corfe present*, was payable to the bishop of this diocese on the death of every clergyman. That was, his best horse or mare, gown, cloak or signet, ring, &c. This was abolished, and the above preferment voted, as a compensation, in the reign of queen Anne.‡ Besides these sources the bishop is entitled to several chief rents, arising out of divers manors, viz. Edern and Gogarth in Caernarvonshire, Llanelidan in the county of Denbigh, with Llanddwyn and Trefos in Anglesea; the latter constitutes the *barony* which entitles him to a seat in the house of Peers. He possesses also the patronage of all the livings except fourteen.

The Chapter consists of twelve dignitaries.

1. The dean.

2. The

* Rotula Walliæ de annis 12, 14, and 15. Edwardi prim.

† These were a kind of ecclesiastical *heriots*, or customary gifts, afterwards claimed, and allowed as a debt in law, by the minister, on the death of any of his parishioners; as a sort of expiation and amends to the clergy for the personal tithes and other ecclesiastical dues, which the laity in their life-time might have forgotten, or neglected to pay. For this purpose, after the Lord's heriot, or best chattel was taken out, the second best was reserved to the church, as a mortuary. Anciently it was called *Saulesceat*, which signifies pecunia sepulchralis, or symbolum animæ. Subsequent to the conquest it received the denomination of *cors-present*, because the mortuary-beast was presented with the body of the deceased, at the funeral. See more on this subject in Dugdale's learned History of Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 679.

‡ 12 Ann. St. 2, c. 6.

2. The bishop, as archdeacon of Bangor.
3. The bishop, as archdeacon of Anglesea.
4. The archdeacon of Merioneth.
5. The prebendary of Llanfair.
6. The prebendary of Penmynydd.
7. The treasurer.
8. The chancellor.
9. The precentor.
10. Canonicus primus.
11. Canonicus secundus.
12. Canonicus tertius.

Of these, five appointments, viz. Numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, are unendowed, being only titular, and therefore termed *Nihil prebends*; but these probably in the era of popery, had considerable emoluments, arising from the corrodies, pensions, or oblations. Two vicars choral, perform the service of the choir, besides which are four lay singing men, four choiristers, and ten children, who wear surplices, assist in chanting, and receive out of a legacy, left by Dr. Glynn, two pounds per annum. Previous to the reformation, and for about a century afterwards, there was another description of ministers attached to this cathedral, denominated *Conducts*, who read divine service, as the vicars do at present, and received their maintenance by offerings, voluntary contributions, or in some similar manner.

The Cathedral of Bangor has several times been demolished by the political rage of the contending parties, which at different periods spread devastation and dismay over this part of Britain. In the year 1071 it was destroyed by the Normans.* When king John invaded Wales, A. D. 1210, he seized the bishop, Robert of Shrewsbury, before the high altar, and compelled him to pay for his liberation a fine of two hundred

* Mr. Pennant says this year, "the cathedral was destroyed by the insurgent *Saxons*," when the Norman dynasty commenced, in 1066. An error that has escaped the notice of the editor of the new edition of "Tours in Wales."

dred *hawks.** It suffered again during the reigns of Henry the third and fourth. But in the year 1402 it was laid in ruins by the army of insurgents, under Owen Glyndwr; in which dilapidated state it remained for the space of ninety years: when bishop *Dean* or Denny rebuilt the choir: and on his translation to the see of Salisbury, left his crozier and mitre, of very considerable value, to his successor at Bangor, on condition he would engage to complete the part of the building already begun.† The body and steeple were erected in the year 1532 by the liberality of bishop *Pace* or *Skeffington*, as appears by the following inscription on the tower:

"THOMAS SKIFFINGTON EPISCOPUS BANGORENSIS, HOC CAMPANILE ET HANC ECCLESIAM FIERI FECIT, ANNO PARTUS VIRGINIS MCCCCCXXXII."

This campanile he furnished with three bells, and by will provided another.

While speaking of this great benefactor, it is but justice to the memory of an injured character, and respect due to a family, deservedly considered liberal, as well as dignified, to endeavour to rescue from unmerited obloquy, the name of *Dr. Arthur Bulkeley*, who was confirmed bishop of this see in the year 1541. Godwin, in his elaborate treatise, entitled "*De Presulibus*," by some unlucky moment of illiberality, admitted an anecdote into that very valuable work, which should, without more solid proof, have been discarded with historic indignation. And as rumour is fabled to be much fleeter than verity, this has been handed down, as a nefarious transaction to the present day. Almost every tourist has considered the stain upon the bishop's conduct a kind of embellishment; and the error has met with gratuitous propagation. Here, may this falsification meet an eternal barrier. "Bishop Bulkeley having sacrilegiously sold away five bells out of the steeple of his cathedral, and going to see them shipped off, he was in his

* Godwinus De Presulibus.

† Willis's Bangor, p. 95.

return homewards struck with blindness, insomuch that he never saw afterwards."* Had the retaliative judgment been omitted, the misrepresentation would have been much more likely to have obtained general credit. But the extraordinary part of the story naturally stimulates the mind to inquiry. Now at Bangor there exists not the smallest tradition, that the said prelate was ever blind, and there are in the records, respecting the diocese, many entries in his own hand-writing, such as articles of enquiry at visitation, charges, &c. &c. receipts written just before his death, which happened in March 14, 1552, in so regular a manner, that must make a person not intellectually dark, smile at the idea of a man deprived of the blessing of sight, making transcripts in such an uniform manner. It is true, that he disposed of several things, with the consent of the dean and chapter, which were the property of the church. For in his will he acknowledges, that he had in his custody a certain sum of money, arising from goods sold, belonging to the cathedral, and that agreeable to the advice of Dr. William Glynn and other canons, he fully repaid the same; and an additional sum in the reparation of the church, and in the liquidation of debts incurred by prosecuting lawsuits with great lay impropriators; who had, during the sitting of his predecessor, contrived to alienate several benefices from the patronage of the see.

Last Will and Testament of Bishop Bulkeley, 1552. Testamentum Arthuri Bulkeley Episcopi Bangor, 1552.

In Nomine Sanctæ & Individuæ Trinitatis Patris, & Filii, & Spiritus Sancti, Amen. Ego Arthuris Bulkeley permissione divina Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Sancti Danielis Bangor humilis Minister,

* Willis in his History of Bangor Cathedral, p. 102, shrewdly remarks, after mentioning this improbable story. But what ground is there are for it I know not; for as the steeple was so newly finished, I can scarce believe it furnished with so many bells thus early: for the most bishop Skeffington had provided were *three*; and though he directed his executors to add a fourth, we may suppose, as they were negligent in performing other bequests, (as Godwin charges them,) they might be so in this also.

Minister, animi & corporis firma sanitate & valetudine constitutus, condo & compono meum Testamentum seu ultimam voluntatem in hunc qui sequitur modum. Imprimis lego & commendo spiritum & animam meam Deo Patri omnipotenti, & omnibus Sanctis & Electis, ac Ecclesiæ Triumphanti, ut spiritus & anima mea mundo intelligibili & Angelico in Deo & beatis mentibus cum cœtu Angelorum & Animarum piarum in æternum & ultra sumantur. Corpus vero hoc terrestre tumulandum in Choro Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Bangor, in illo loco ubi cor bonæ memoriæ Thomæ Skevyngton Predecessoris mei sepelitur.

Item. I give and bequeth to my Successor all the Hangings in the painted Chamber, all the Hangings in the great Dining-Room, two Cupboards standing in the same Chamber, all the Hangings in the great Chamber next to my Bed-chamber, all the Hangings in my Bed-chamber: All the Utensils in the Kitchen, as well such Utensils or Vessels which I found there upon my first coming to this See, as well as such of the Utensils and other Kitchin Stuff which I brought, &c. to this House. Also I give and bequeth to my said Successor three fytherbeds, the one now with John Phillip, the other wheron Thomas Meythe lyeth, the third upon my own bed, also the Bed Case and Curtins in mine own Bed-chamber, the Bed Case without Curtins in the next Chamber to my Bed-chamber, and the Bed Case without Curtins or Testern in the painted Chamber. *Item.* I bequeth to the use of my Brethren, the Dean and Chapter, towards the Furniture of the Library in the said Cathedral Church these Books following: viz. Six Volumes of Lives, viii Volumes of Dyonissius upon the Old and New Testament, all Hierom, and Seynt Thomas upon the Sevend in two Volumes. Also I bequeth all the said Books to the Use aforesaid, to be delivered when the said Library be erected and set up, and not before. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Thomas Bulkeley all the Paraphrase of Erasmus in Latin, in several small Volumes, which are noted with my own Hand; also I bequeth to the said Mr. Bulkeley the Old and New Testament comprised

in five small Volumes, which I bought at my last being in London for private Use of Service. *Item.* I bequeth to the use of the Cathedral Church my two English Bibles, and the great Latyn Bible of Stephanus, Colmen's Prynt; the one of the English Bibles, and the Latyn Bible to remain in the Quire, and the other English Bible to be fixed with a Chain in some Part of the Cross Ile. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Robert Evans, Dean of Bangor, Josephus de Antiquitatibus & Bello Judaismo. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Doctor Thomas Davies Quadruplex Psalterium, & Prophelmus super Psalmos. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Roberts, Archdeacon of Merioneth Johannes de Turre Cremat in three Vols. *Item.* I bequeth to the said Dean, Ruthmund super Evangelica, Epistolas Pauli, & super Psalmos. *Item.* I bequeth to Sir Richard Bulkeley Knight, a Colt which I bought in Arverstley, now being two years old; and a Gold Ring amel'd, having in it the Arms of Christ. *Item.* I bequeth to my Lady Bulkeley a quishion checker velvet red and green. *Item.* I bequeth to Elizabeth Fletcher a fether bed covering and two fustyan blankets which are in the painted Chamber, and the Testern of the bed which is also in the same Chamber. Also I bequeth to the said Elizabeth the little Goblet of silver with the Cover, and also 6 Silver Spoons. *Item.* I give and bequeth to Thomas Birckdall the Paraphrase of Erasmus upon the Gospels. *Item.* I bequeth to his Wife two yards of Holland Cloth, after viiid per Yard. *Item.* I do declare and testify by this my last Will and Testament, that whereas I had a certain Sum of Money in my Custody of the Cathedral Church Goods, that by the advice of Dr William Glynn, and other the Canons there, I did fully bestow the same Money and much more upon the Roofe and Leads of the South side of the Church, which before was ready to fall, the reparation whereof did cost forty-two Pounds. *Item.* My Lord Archbishop of Canterbury hath a specialty of me, whereby I am indebted to his Grace in the Sum of twenty Pounds, whereof I have paid XI. and therefore have an acquittance, and beseech his Grace to forgive me and my Executors the Residue, in respect I have incurred notable

notable Debts in Defence of this poor Church. *Item.* His Grace so remitting the said Debts I will that my Executors shall pay to the Gentlemen of his Grace's Chamber fourty shillings for a Reward. *Item.* I do give and bequeth to Sir Humphery Byckdall, Faber upon the Gospels and the Epistles. *Item.* All the Residue of all and singular my Goods, Chattels, and Credits, moveable and immoveable, the King's Majesty's Money first deducted and paid, I do freely give and bequeth to my Nephew Richard Fletcher and Grace his Wife. *Item.* I do order, make, and constitute the said Richard Fletcher and Hugh Goodman my true and lawful Executors. *Item.* I will that the said Hugh Goodman shall have Part of my said Goods, Chattels, and Credits, after my Debts payd, according as the sayd Richard Fletcher and he shall agree, for his paynes and travaile to be susteyned about the accomplishment of this Testament. *Item.* I do declare that I have in Gold and Silver in my House at this present Time the sum of one hundred and thirty Pounds, towards Payment of the King's Majesty's Tenths, as well for Anno Quinto as Anno Sexto Regni Dom. nostr. Regis nunc. and more ready money I have not.

Item. I bequeth to Sir David Moythe, Tytelman upon the Epistles of St. Paul. *Item.* I bequeth to Sir Geffery Lewis the Paraphrase of Erasmus in English upon the Epistles. *Item.* I bequeth to Hugh Goodman a Silver Goblet Parcell gilt, a little turned Cup of Silver, and a little Salt of Silver guilt. *Item,* I bequeth to Hugh Thomas my Servant the Gelding which I had of Mathew Coche, and xls. in Money. *Item.* I bequeth to my Nephew Henry Eton iiii*l.* to be payd to him of the Money which shall be made of my Books.

In witness of this my present Testament, I have to the same set my Hand and Seal, the tenth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord God after the course and computation of the Church of England, a Thousand five hundred and fifty two, in the seventh Year of the Reigne of our most dread Sovereigne Lord Edward the 6th by the Grace of God King of England, France,

and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in the Earth of the Church of England and Ireland the supreme Head.

per me, A. BANGOR.

Before these Witnesses subscribed Anno Conservationis duodecimo.

Richard Fletcher, N. P.
David Joytgen, Clerk.
Humphrey Birckdall, Clerk.
Jeffery Lewys, Clerk.*

The present cathedral is situated in a large yard, surrounded by a wall, on one side of which is an avenue of trees, forming in summer a pleasant promenade. The building comprises a choir, nave, transept, two ailes, and a quadrangular tower at the west end, which, but for the premature death of the founder, would have been raised agreeable to the original design, to double the present height. The choir, transept, and tower have an embattled parapet, and the latter is surmounted by a crocketted pinnacle at each angle. The windows of the nave, transept, and chancel are in the pointed style; those of the cleresty have semicircular heads. The structure assumes a neat regular appearance; but the uniformity of its plan is miserably marred by rooms having been added on the north side, for the purposes of a consistorial court, chapter house, and library. "The dimensions of the church on the outside, are as follow: From the west corner of the steeple to the west end of the aile twenty-three feet, thence to the next buttress twenty-one feet; to the next buttress ten feet six inches: in the distance between these two buttresses is a door ten feet high, which takes up the greatest part of that space. From the second buttress to the cross aile is eighty-two feet six inches. The two buttresses on each side are not included in this mensuration, though the others are. The windows in the side ailes are in height, eleven feet to the top, and their breadth is

* Willis's Survey, &c. p. 256.

is five feet nine inches. The cross aile is thirty-two feet six inches broad. From the cross aile to the east end of the choir is fifty-five feet. The height of the nave from the top of the moulding to the leads of the side aile is ten feet six inches. From the top of the side or lower ailes to the ground is twenty-two feet, nine inches. From the top of the battlements at the corner of the cross aile to the ground is thirty-three feet six inches. The height of the choir is the same. The steeple or tower from the top of the battlements to the ground, including the pinnacles is about double the height of the church, that being sixty-one feet, and the pinnacles seven feet and an half."*

The dimensions are thus more compactly stated in a popular architectural work.

	Feet
Length, of Cathedral, from east to west	214
——— of tower at the west end	19
——— of nave or body	141
——— of the choir which extends entirely to the east end and begins beyond the cross isle	63
——— of the cross isles from north to south	96
Breadth of the body and side isles	60
Height of the body to the top of the roof	34
——— of the tower	60
Square of the tower	†24

According to the custom of the times the windows were decorated with painted glass by the piety of different persons, among whom, from the arms, appear the *Gryffydds of Penrhyn* and *Dean Kyffin*, who founded and endowed a chantry in the south cross aile for the posthumous benefit of his soul. But many of these suffered much from fanatic rage, during the civil war in the reign of Charles the first, and from inattention to the re-

* Willis's Bangor, p. 20.

† Essays on Gothic Architecture p. 138. An ichnography, and drawing of this cathedral were engraved by Harris to accompany Willis's Survey, and one on a larger scale by Buck.

pairs necessary by the incidents of time. The east window at the end of the choir, which reaches from the top of the screen to the cieling of the roof, is about twenty-seven feet high by thirteen and a half broad. In this are figures representing saints and prelates robed and mitred. Among the former are those of *St. Ambrose and Augustine;* among the latter, Bishops *Dean,* and *Skeffington;* but they are so mutilated as only to be discoverable by the aid of historic document. More figures are discernible in the window near the episcopal throne, and in the two small windows over the stalls. Lately the windows of the nave and ailes have been partially decorated with modern stained glass in the upper compartments, by voluntary contribution; and it is intended, when the fund is adequate, to complete the whole series. The nave is separated from the ailes by six flat-pointed arches, resting on octangular fluted columns; having plain annular capitals, and broad square plinths. The church contains few *sepulchral monuments,* interesting either in a sculptorial, or an elegiac view. In a shrine, on the left side of the high altar, history records the interment of the valiant, and prudent prince *Gryffydd ap Cynan* A. D. 1137; but no vestige of the tomb remains. Beneath an arch, in the south end of the transept on a sarcophagus ornamented with a cross fleury, is the effigy in stone, of *Owen Gwynedd,* king of North Wales, who died, feared by his enemies, and regretted by his friends, in the year 1161. Several of the prelates lie buried here. Two alabaster busts, or half length effigies of bishops *Vaughan* and *Rowlands,* were decapitated by the fanatics during the rebellion. The following inscription on a black marble slab records their conjoint memories.

" Piæ Memoriæ duorum Episcoporum in hac ecclesia proxime succedentium, qui fuerunt contigue nati, coetanei, sibi invicem cari condiscipuli, consanguinei; ex illustri familia VAUGHANORUM de Talhenbont in Evionith; prior, filius THOMÆ AP ROBERT VACHAN generosi de Niffryn in Llyn, Qui sedem hanc per biennium tenuit, deinde Cestrensem per septem annos; postea Londinensem per triennium tenuit, ubi vitam mensis Martii

Martii ultimo An. Dom. 1607 immatura morte commutavit: cujus virtus post funeros vivit. Posterior, HENRICUS, filius ROLANDI AP ROBERT ARMIGERI de Melteyrn in Llyn, ex Elizabetia filia Griffini ap Robert Vachan, armigeri de Talhenbout, qui annum consecrationis suæ jam aget decimum octavum, multasque agat feliciter ad honorem dei et Evangelii propagationem. Mutuo amore alter utrique hoc struxit monumentum mense Maii, Anno Dom. 1616.

Orimur, vicissim morimur
Qui non præcesserunt sequuntur.',

On the south side of the choir, is a large handsome mural monument of white marble, surmounted by an urn, and decorated with several escutcheons, charged with family arms. The tablet is divided into two compartments. The one commemorative of *Bishop Morgan*; and the other of his daughter *Elisabeth*. He died September 1673, and she in August 1682. The inscription states, the pious memorial was erected by the parental affection of *Bishop Humphreys* for his beloved daughter *Anne*, by his wife the aforesaid Elizabeth, who departed this mortal life in January 1699. A stone with an escutcheon charged with *three Boars heads in pale, with a stag trippant*, bears this inscription.

H S E

" GULIELMUS WYNNE A. M. Roberti Wynne de Garthewyn, com. Denbigh, filius natu minimus: Coll. Jesu apud Oxon socius, Johanni episcopo Bangoriens. a sacris, vir amicis desideratissimus, quem ob immaturam mortem lugebat, cujus illustraverat Antiquitates patria: obiit anno salutis, 1704 atatis 34.

The person here commemorated is said to have been the learned historian, who edited a valuable history of Wales. The materials were first collected by Caradoc Llancarvan, a monk who flourished in the twelfth century. These consist of documents

ments from A. D. 686 in a continued series, down to his own time; which were further extended to the death of the last Llewelyn; and the whole translated into English by Humphrey Lloyd, gent. in the reign of Henry the Eighth. But the publication was delayed by his premature death. In the time of Elizabeth Dr. David Powell, having collected whatever he considered elucidatory of the subject from the English historians, and added it under the denomination of Annotations, published Mr. Lloyd's translation in the year 1584. Mr. Wynne from the notes of the able antiquary Vaughan of Hengwrt, and other coadjutative documents, made numerous useful additions and by incorporating the annotations with the text, greatly improved the whole performance.

In the library is a curious manuscript, intitled "LIBER PONTIFICALIS DNI ANNIANI BANGOR EPISCOPI." This *Pontifical*, or Book of Bangor, is a moderate sized folio, containing a missale, which includes, besides the Rubric, thirty-two offices, together with numerous anthems, set to music for the use of the church, and diocese; and appears to have been drawn up by bishop Anian, with the consent of the clergy, at a synod he convened in the year 1291. This is one of those *provincial diversities*, in the manner of conducting divine service, long the opprobrium of our national ecclesiastical establishment; and which is noticed, and prohibited in the prefatory order, printed before the Liturgy of the Anglican church; and forms part of the statute respecting uniformity of worship: "whereas heretofore there hath been great diversity in saying and singing in churches, within this realm, some following *Salisbury* use, some *Hereford* use, and some the use of *Bangor*, some of *York*, some of *Lincoln*; now from henceforth all the whole realm shall have but one use." This very curious relique was lost, during the troubles of Wales occasioned by Owen Glyndwr's rebellion in the reign of Edward the fourth; but was restored to the church by bishop Ednam, in the year 1485. In the civil wars it was again missing, and recovered by bishop Humphreys. Among other forms, occur those for *adjuring bread, cheese, honey*, &c. and

in the baptismal office, instead of *three* times immersion, as was then customary in honour of the Trinity, *two* only are expressly and strictly enjoined.

Near the entrance gates of the church-yard, formerly stood a building the use of which is now obsolete: a *Hen-house* or episcopal gaol. But this after the reformation became dilapidated, and has long been removed. At an early period a *parochial church*, dedicated to St. Mary, stood at a small distance from the cathedral. This denominated *Llanfair Garth Braaan* is said to have been founded and endowed in the reign of Howel ap Jevaf, by Edgar the Saxon king of Mercia,* previous to his meeting by appointment at Chester, the eight suppliant monarchs, who rowed him triumphantly in his royal barge down the river Dee,† when this structure was demolished.

The MONASTERY for *Friars preachers* was founded by *Tudor ap Grono*, lord of Penmynnydd, in the county of Anglesea, so early as the year 1299: who was interred here in 1311. On the dissolution, it was granted by Edward the sixth, to Thomas Brown, and William Breton: and shortly after converted into a *Free-school* by *Jeffry Glynn*, who was an advocate of the court of Arches, and brother of bishop William Glynn. By his will, proved in 1557, he bequeathed the administration of his estate to his brother, and Maurice Gryffyth, bishop of Rochester. Both these dying, before they had adjusted the settlements, relative to the institution, its completion devolved upon Sir William Petre, and others, who finally with the concurrence of the diocesan, agreed upon the permanent rules and regulations, which are said to have been drawn up by Dr. Alexander Nowel, dean of St. Paul's.

The

* "Edgar rex fundavit ecclesiam in honorem Beatæ Mariæ, et primas libertates eidem concessit, ut lapis in medio operis testatur, et eandem dotavit." Ex Archivis Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Bangoriensis.

† These royal *watermen* were Kenneth, king of Scotland; Malcolm, king of Cumbria; Macon or Macchus, king of Man and the isles; with Howel, Jago, Sifrethius, Dyfnwal, and Ithel, five Cambrian princes. Wynne's Hist. of Wales p. 59, and Turner's Hist. of the Anglo Saxons, Vol. I. p. 399.

The present FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL which stands at a small distance from the city, is a neat modern brick structure, comprising a house for the master, with suitable apartments for the pupils, and transacting the scholastic business; a lawn in front affords a spacious theatre for juvenile recreations. The institution appears to be well conducted, and being in high repute, though the original endowment was not great,* yet the master and coadjutors obtain considerable emolument from the number of optional boarders.

The HOSPITAL or *Almshouse*,† owes its establishment to the munificence of *Henry Rowland*, bishop of this see; who by his last will and testament, dated July 1, 1616, bequeathed an estate in lands, towards the erecting and endowing an almshouse, for the accommodation of six poor, old, impotent single men, who were to receive respectively two shillings per week, and annually six yards of frieze for their clothing.

A PUBLIC DISPENSARY was instituted in the year 1809, by a voluntary subscription; denominated "The Caernarvonshire and Anglesey loyal Dispensary." This, according to the statement of the committee, was determined on by "The gentlemen, assembled to celebrate the anniversary of his Majesty's entrance into the fiftieth year of his reign; who anxious to evince some testimony of their affection and loyalty to their beloved sovereign, upon so joyous and glorious an occasion; and to give some permanent proof, that the auspicious day had not passed unnoticed

* "The master's perquisites or salary is about 60l. per annum, and the usher's 35l. Willis's Survey, &c. p. 48. But from the estates having been much improved, these since that period, are very considerably advanced.

The school stood almost in front of the cathedral; but was lately taken down, and rebuilt, in a neat stile, near the east side of the churchyard. By this an opening is made, affording, from the centre of the city, a very delightful prospect, over the Menai to Anglesea, including the town of Beaumaris, and the park of Baron-hill.

† An engraving of this view, with some portion of pictorial licence, a fanciful wooded fore-ground, shadowing the cathedral, is given in the second volume of Hoare's Giraldus.

noticed; resolved to enter into a subscription for the purpose of establishing a Dispensary, where the poor shall be supplied with medicine, and have the aid of medical advice, *gratis*. The subscription book soon received a most respectable number of signatures, and the resolutions are now carried into effect. The building for this benevolent purpose, is a small neat structure on the side of the London road.

THE PALACE is situated in a flat, below the cathedral, where Mr. Pennant observed, "the prelate is indifferently lodged." It was almost entirely rebuilt by bishop Skeffington, who died in the year 1533. This episcopal residence was, however, much improved by the late right Rev. John Warren, while he held the See; and considerable alterations and additions are in contemplation, by the present prelate, Dr. Majendie.

BANGOR, situated in a narrow valley, between ridges of rock, having a fine opening towards the Menai, consists of one long street. The houses being in general well-built, and roofed with slate, assume a neat appearance. It at no time, within the last twenty years, deserved the stigma, cast upon it by an intelligent tourist.* And since, the place has by numerous re-edifications, and additional buildings, received very material improvement. It was anciently of much greater extent, and probably occupied the whole of the rising ground, between the present city, and Bangor ferry: for in ploughing, the foundations of buildings have been frequently discovered. The place has considerably again increased, within the last century, as will appear by a comparison of the following statements: "the parish of Bangor is of considerable extent, being in length from east to west five miles, and from north to south four miles: and contains in it the following *vills*, and number of houses, in each of them, respectively. 1. Bangor-town, wherein are 68 houses, besides the bishop's palace, deanery, and hospital. 2. The skirts of the town or town parcel, where are 30 houses. 3. Tyllvaen, where are 16 houses. 4. Brithder,

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 167. But it should be recollected, things are great or little, magnificent or mean by comparison.

der, with 12 houses. 5. Caerwedog, where are 14 houses. 6. Treborth, where are 25 houses. 7. Vaenol, which has 6 houses. 8. Aber y Pwll, where are 15 houses. And lastly Pentir, (where is a chapel of ease in which one of the vicars-choral officiates every other sunday) containing 17 houses. In all 206 houses, which, allowing five to an house or family, makes the number of souls 1030."* By the returns made to government under the Population Act in 1801, it appears, the number of houses amounted to 304, and inhabitants to 1770; of whom 135 were returned as employed in various trades. A cheap and well supplied market is weekly held on Wednesdays. The situation of Bangor renders it peculiarly eligible as a place of residence. The numerous pleasant rides and walks, the diversity of views, the vicinity to the sea, and the great road between Dublin and London running through it; are inducements not often combined to influence a stranger in the selection of his abode. Yet this place possesses attractive charms, that cannot fail to strike the observant visitor. "Free from the bustle of larger, and the intrigues of more polished cities, it seems peculiarly adapted for social retirement, where the mind may uninterruptedly possess leisure for reflection, and occasionally find relaxation from the strenuous ardour of investigation, in the grateful amusement of social and friendly intercourse. "Struck," says a writer, "with the place on my entering it, a closer observation of the distinct parts, that formed the agreeable whole, served to confirm my opinion and rivet my attachment; and with all the enthusiasm of Horace for his favourite Tibur, I exclaimed,

Banchor Arvona positum celono
Sit mea sedes, utinam senectæ.

"Time's creeping winter here let shed
His hoary snow around my head;
And while I feel, by fast degrees,
My sluggard blood was chill and freeze,
Let thought unveil to my fixed eye
The scenes of deep eternity:

Till

* Willis's Survey, &c. published in the year 1721.

ABER,
Caernarvonshire.

Till life dissolving at the view,
I wake and find the vision true."

"We left Bangor," observes another tourist, "with strong impressions in its favour, having never seen a place which united so many beauties in so narrow a circle; the sublime mountains of Caernarvonshire at a short distance from it; the picturesque scenery of its own immediate neighbourhood; and the ocean spreading its broad bosom within two miles of the town. Add to this, also, the important circumstance of its being one of the cheapest towns in the three kingdoms, and few others will appear to be so inviting and desirable for a residence as Bangor."*

Two miles from Bangor is ABER CEGID or CEGIN, through which a small rivulet empties itself into the Menai. On this a new harbour is fast rising into consequence, formed at the expence of the late Lord Penrhyn, (and called after his name) for the advantage of his lordship's slate quarries, which are four miles above at *Dolawyn*, near Llyn Meirig, in the mountains of Ogwen. The situation of Port Penrhyn is convenient, being well sheltered by the Anglesea shore, and vessels of three and four hundred tons burthen ride securely close to the quay to take in their lading; some of these are from London, Bristol, and Liverpool; but the chief trade is with Ireland. This is made the grand depot of the slate trade; and spacious warehouses are erected for that purpose; the hills from whence they are procured are some of those secondary mountains forming the first parapet of the Snowdon chain. The slates are of all sizes, from large tombstones and slabs for pavement, down to the smallest size used for roofing; they are distributed into the respective sizes, and qualities, according to the scheme below, and sold at the following prices for money only:

		l.	*s.*	*d.*
Duchesses	per 1000.....	3	10	0
Countesses	ditto	2	0	0

Ladies

* Warner's Walk through Wales, &c. p. 142.

			l.	s.	d.
Ladies	ditto		1	0	0
Doubles	ditto		0	11	0
Singles	ditto		0	5	0
Patents	per ton		1	6	0
Rags	ditto		0	18	0
Kiln Ribs	per yard		0	0	3

In the first slate-mining concern, the slates were saleable as *one* sort; and in general were of small dimensions. But when the business came into more scientific hands, a variation, both in the size and denomination took place in the following order:

The smaller kind by way of distinction, were called *singles;* and the larger being advanced to double the price, received the appellation of *doubles.* One thousand of the latter, were consequently by the workmen accounted as two thousand of the former. As the work proceeded to improve, further distinctions as to size, and price, took place; and a third kind, under the name of *double doubles,* was distinguished in the trade. Every thousand of these were reckoned, as four thousand. A still larger sort was obtained twice the dimensions of the last. A new mode of discrimination was then thought necessary; the double doubles were called *ladies,* the quadruples, *countesses*; and afterwards still, larger sorts, were designated by divers and appropriate names.

Near the port a large manufactory of cyphering slates, inkstands, and other fancy articles, is carried on by an agent, through whose politeness the above statement was obtained, and the following account of the process of the manufactory.

The rude slates from the mines, are first reduced to shape and size by a small edged tool, similar to a plaisterer's hatchet, the slate being previously placed on the edge of an iron plane, fixed vertically; they are then taken to the scraper, who, with a small piece fo thin steel, takes off the imperfect laminæ, and

reduces the surface to a level; they are passed into other hands, who grind them with a flat stone, afterwards polished by the actions of water and slate powder; and being stained with a black water colour and framed, are piled up in grosses for exportation. They are distinguished into two sizes, large and small; price of the large, 5*l.* per gross, and the small, 2*l.* 6*s.* ditto. To such a degree of proficiency have the Welsh arrived in the manufacturing of this article, that they are able to undersell the Dutch, while the quality is much better. The slates imported by way of Holland from Switzerland and other countries, are always rough and of an indifferent colour on one side, while those of Wales, are equally coloured and polished on both: a sure criterion of the two manufactures.

At a small distance from the port, a handsome building comprising a set of hot and cold sea-water baths, with dressing rooms, &c. exhibit, in their design and execution, the taste of the architect, and the liberality of the owner. The building, for the boundage of the daily tides, stands far out, and a communication is formed with the park, by an amazing high carriage terrace, whence the surrounding views on the Menai, are seen to great advantage.

Entering the park, the embattled turrets of the noble mansion of Penrhyn appears standing on the summit of a hill, formerly embosomed with a grove of venerable oaks; which have nearly now given place to more modern plantations.

Penrhyn Castle, the seat of *Dowager Lady Penrhyn*, is said to have been erected upon the site of an ancient palace, belonging to *Roderic Molwynog*, who was sovereign of North Wales, in the early part of the eighth century. During the contention of the rival princes, it was levelled with the ground by Meredydd ap Owen in 987; who the same year, invading this country, slew the reigning monarch, Cadwallan ap Jevaf. In the time of Llewelyn, it was granted with other estates, to *Yarddur ap Trahaiarn*, from whom by the law of gavel kind, it descended

to a female; that, with her person bestowed it on one of the posterity of Ednyfed Fychan. A descendant *William Fychan,* chamberlain of North Wales, was made an English denizen, on the sole condition, that he should not intermarry with a *Welsh woman:* such were the maxims of severity adopted and enforced against the oppressed Cambrians, in the time of Henry the sixth. William's father, Gwilim ap Gryffyd, obtained the hereditary chamberlainship, and had previously been admitted to the same privilege by his intermarriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Dalton, of Althorpe, in Northamptonshire. *Sir William Gryffydd,* cotemporary with Henry the eighth, and who was present with that prince at the siege of Boulogne, was the means, by his indefatigable exertions, of preserving the valuable records in two parchment books; one of which, called, *The Extent* of North Wales, is now in the Chamberlain's office; and the other, in that of the auditor's in London.*

Piers Gryffydd, in the reign of Elizabeth, was possessor of Penrhyn, and eminently distinguished himself, by fitting out a ship of war, at his own expence, in which he sailed from Beaumaris, April 20, 1588, and joined the celebrated admiral, Sir Francis Drake, had the honour of sharing with him, and other loyal heroes, the laurels obtained by the signal defeat of the Spanish armada. It came into the family of *Pennant,* partly by the purchase of the late Lord Penrhyn's father, and partly by his own marriage with Anne Susannah, daughter, and sole heiress of the late General Warburton, of Winnington. By this matrimonial compact, the two moieties which had for some time been divided, became united; and her ladyship is now, for want of heirs male, in possession of the whole.†

The

* Mona Antiqua.

† A detailed and circumstantial illustration of the house of Penrhyn, may be seen in "A Genealogical Account of the Families of Penrhyn and Cochwillan, &c. by the late Rev. John Thomas, A. M. of Beaumaris." Printed at the end of Williams's Observations, &c.

The house appears to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry the sixth, by the afore-mentioned Gwillim ap Gryffydd; and prior to the late alterations, exhibited a fair specimen of the domestic architecture, prevalent at that period. The arms of Stanley, having the female distinction, empaled with his own, were to be seen in the stained glass of the hall windows, so late as the year 1764.* The buildings stand round a large court, entered by a handsome gateway surmounted by a tower. One side of the area is flanked by a magnificent hall, and the others by divers spacious apartments. The structure has lately received considerable improvements, from designs by *Wyatt*. The whole is new fronted with yellow brick, which gives it the appearance of stone; and to the credit of the architect, as well as the taste of the late noble owner, due respect has been paid to the original design, except that the *chapel* has been removed to a different site, "Like that of our Lady of Loretto," says a humourous bard, "it changed its former situation in the court of castellated Penrhyn, for a grove at a few yards distance: and though under the guidance of *mortal agency* only, its flight has been by judgment; and it has rested scientifically." It was carefully taken down and re-constructed with the same materials, and upon a similar plan; but the modernized porch forms an heterogeneous vestibule. The interior is neatly fitted up, and the chancel part elegant. The pulpit, composed of cedar, including three pannels of carved wainscot oak, exhibit specimens in basso-relievo, perhaps never surpassed. The subjects, *The Scourging*, *Crucifixion*, and *Resurrection* of the Saviour. At the east end a large pointed window, glazed with most brilliant stained glass, was executed by that able artist, *Mr. Egginton* of Birmingham.

The stables are considered among the first in the kingdom, for elegance and accommodation. The building has a handsome façade, fronted with patent slate, and the pilasters, which divide the stalls, together with the mangers, are of the same material. Indeed this very valuable article appears to be converted

* Pennant's Tours in Wales, Vol. III. p. 90.

on the Penrhyn demesne, to every possible use. The park is fenced with it; narrow upright slate slabs, cut in imitation of palisadoes, are fixed by pins to oaken railings, which find their support in posts formed of cubic slate.

The principal entrance into the park is by a *grand gateway*, in the manner of a Roman triumphal arch, which, though correspondent to the magnificence, does not perfectly harmonise with the style of the mansion. The river Ogwen, that used to roll its waters over a widely-extended rubly bed, is here confined within narrow limits; and several cascades appear through vistas in the plantations from the front of the house.

Here is still preserved a *kirlas*, or drinking horn, of the hero Piers Gryffydd; and is perhaps the only elegant specimen of that kind of utensil, elucidatory of ancient manners, at present subsisting. It is a large bugle of an ox, ornamented with enchased silver, and suspended by a chain of the same metal, having the initials of his own name and family engraved at the end. In the royal court of Cambria there were legally *three* sorts of horns, for the purpose of private or public libations. The first was *y corn ydd yfo y brenin*, or the one solely appropriated to the king's use. Second, *Corn cyweithas*, by which the domestics of the palace were summoned to duty. And, third, *Corn y pencynydd*, committed to the custody of the chief huntsman.* Each of these was to be of the reputed value of one pound. On grand occurrences, the domestics of the palace were permitted to drink out of the sovereign's horn; and the chamberlain, or high steward, on such occasions, furnished handsome potations of the generous metheglin. The contents of the horn, at these times, assumed the name of the sacred potion, similar to the *wassail bowl*, or the apostle's cup, in use among the Saxons. Ulphus, when he conveyed certain lands to the church of York, is said to have quaffed off the sparkling contents of such a vessel, drinking a health, "*Deo et sancto Petro*," to God and St. Peter.† On festive days the imperious custom was to empty the horn

* Leges Wallicæ, Lib. iv. p. 311.

† Archæologia, Vol. III. p. 8.

Fall of the
RIVER OGWEN,
North Wales.

thorn one tip, and instantly blow it, as a testimony that no dereliction of draught had occurred.

" Fill the horn with foaming liquor,
Fill it up, my boy, be quicker;
Hence away despair and sorrow
Time enough, to sigh to-morrow.
Let the brimming goblet smile,
And *Edwyfed's* cares beguile
Gallant youth, unus'd to fear,
Master of the broken spear,
And the arrow-pierced shield
Brought with honour from the field.
Like an hurricane is he,
Bursting on the troubled sea.
See their spears distain'd with gore,
Hear the din of battle roar!
Bucklers, swords, together clashing
Sparkles from their helmets flashing!
Hear ye not their loud alarms?
Hark! they shout—to arms! to arms!
Thus were Garthen's plains defended,
Maelor fight began, and ended,
There two princes fought; and there
Was Morach Vorvran's feast exchang'd, for rout and fear."*

In the vicinity of Penrhyn, on the stream of the Ogwen, is a curious mill, to grind *petrosilex*, or *chert*, *quartz*, and *flints*, for the use of the porcelain and delph ware potteries. The machinery is well contrived, and consists of two overshot wheels,

* See an elegant poem written by Owain Cyveiliog, a bard, who flourished in the twelfth century, intitled HIRLAS OWAIN." The original may be found in Evan Evans's Collections, published with an English dress in Pennant's Tours, Vol. III. p. 95.* This spirited translation, by a gentleman, under the signature of R. W. must convince the reader of genuine taste, that a true poetical genius pervaded, at times, the bosom of the Welsh; and that some of Owain Cyveiliog's works, need not shrink from a comparison with the first classical productions of Lyric poetry.

* More of the elegant performances of this poet have been since collected in the Myvyrian Archaiology.

about twenty feet in diameter, having trundles on the beams, sixteen do.; which, working within the mill, impart power to another large horizontal trundle-wheel, lifting several upright levers, that again operate on others, on two floors above. Circular vessels are paved at bottom with gritstone: on each of these is a centre with several elbows, between which are placed large flat stones, moved rapidly round by the communicated motion. The chert and flints are previously roasted in kilns nearly similar to those, used for the calcination of lime. The materials so prepared are put into the molindary vessels, with a portion of water, and ground into an impalpable powder. The mass in a fluid state is let out into divers reservoirs, where, after undergoing various decantations, is carried to a drying stove, and then packed in casks, and shipped to different parts of the kingdom. The chert and quartz are obtained from the base of Carnedd Llewelyn, in the parish of Llan Llechid; and the flints are brought, as ballast, in the ships that convey the slates from this county to Ireland.

An ore of Manganese is also here prepared for the purposes of bleaching; and an ore of zinc, as a substitute for white lead, in pigments. These compact, though varied works reflect the highest credit on the ingenuity, science, and energetic spirit of the proprietors, Messrs. Worthington and Co. the former of whom is chief agent for lady Penrhyn's slate quarries.

On the eminence, just above the banks of the Ogwen, stands the very neat structure of LLANDEGAI* church; it is built cruciform, the tower resting upon four arches in the centre of the building; and the style marks the age of Edward the third. The church-yard is inclosed by a slate fence round the bottom of the cone-shaped hill; which, with the neatness of the edifice, and the perspicuous situation, gives it a pleasing appearance. It is celebrated for being the burial-place of ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS.

*TEGAI, a son of Ithel Hael, that lived about the close of the fifth century, was a saint, who came over with Cadvan, from Armorica, to renovate the declining state of Christianity in Britain.

WILLIAMS. A mural monument,* with the figure of the prelate in his archi-episcopal robes, kneeling before an altar, is placed over his remains.† On sight of this monument, Dr. Davies felt himself poetically inspired, and produced the elegant lines preserved in Dodsley's Collection, vol. 6. After lamenting over the fallen honours of the degraded prelate, he breaks out in an animated apostrophe.

> "Could not thy Lincoln yield her pastor room,
> Could not thy York supply thee with a tomb."

And ends with this pleasing moral.

> "Envied ambition, what are all thy schemes
> But waking misery, or pleasing dreams;
> Sliding and tottering on the heights of state,
> The subject of this vase declares thy fate;
> Great as he was, you see how small the gain
> A burial so obscure, a muse so mean."

This great man was the subject and the sport of fortune, for a series of years. He successively enjoyed her favours, was exalted to the see of Lincoln, became lord-keeper of the privy-seal, and was made metropolitan of York. While in the former station, he was tried by his peers, and being found guilty of subornation, suffered imprisonment, from 1637 to 1640. After being liberated, he was raised to the archi-episcopal see of York: being shortly after banished. He died at the house of Sir Roger Mostyn, of Gloddaeth, in 1650, aged 68. Mr. Pennant has said, "that he must be considered as a wise, rather than a good man." He is charged with being haughty, highly resentful, and his character fraught with duplicity; the protest

* A most verbose, and fulsome, Latin epitaph, compo ed by Mr. Hackett, his chaplain, afterwards Bishop of Litchfield, thus concludes: "Pass on, traveller, in what you have seen your curiosity must be gratified."

† The yellow face, however, put upon it, by an ochreous wash, to correspond with the front of Penhryn Castle, very ill accords with the antique style of the building.

he made in the House of Lords,* is produced as a proof of the former; and the advice he gave his unfortunate master,† with regard to the Earl of Strafford, of the latter. It must be confessed, that in his political conduct, the archbishop discovered too much of the cursed doctrine of *Machiavel*, "a public, and a private conscience;" but it should be remembered, that he lived in times, when political and moral order were trampled under feet; when the spirit of party ran so high, as to overwhelm the consideration of strict justice: and the want of charity and honour were lost in the provocations of injury, and prevarications were suggested, by the sudden impulse of self-preservation. He retired, in the latter part of his life, to the peaceful retreats of North Wales, devoted his life to meditation and prayer, and is said to have met death with a fortitude, that must have been inspired by a believing hope, and a resignation, that bespake the faith of the Christian.

On the south side of the altar is an ancient tomb, ornamented with cherubic figures, on which are two recumbent figures in alabaster, representing a knight and his lady, supposed to be commemorative of Gwilym ap Gryffydd, of Penrhyn Castle.

The whole of this once desolate tract of country, by the beneficent and commercial spirit of the late Lord Penrhyn, aided by the energies of several scientific adventurers from England, has been converted into a most lovely and interesting spot. Several small villas, decorated with plantations, now adorn the once woodless waste, and the numerous neat houses erected under his

* In 1644, on the debate for taking away the votes of Bishops in the House of Peers, he, by an impassioned speech, induced eleven bishops to join him in the protest against all acts that should pass the house during their forced absence: for this they were impeached of high treason, and doomed to eighteen months imprisonment, but soon after released upon bail. The archbishop was banished from his diocese during the disturbances in the county of York.

† His advice to Charles was, in case the king could not win Cromwell by promises, and fair treatment; to have recourse to stratagem for the security of his person, and endeavour to procure the usurper's assassination.

his lordship's direction, for the use of persons employed in the slate quarries, and other works, wears the appearance of a populous town. A small, but elegant chapel, in the pointed style, has also been recently erected for their devotional accommodation.

The principal *slate quarry* is at *Braich y cefn*, near *Dolawen*; and the land, which was for centuries considered as scarcely of any value, is now become a source of immense revenue. Slates were obtained at an early period, in this part of the island; and, therefore, were probably employed as *roofing*, anterior to the period usually assigned for their adoption. The first, sent coastwise, were imported from the mouth of the Ogwen River. For Sion Tudur, a bard, who flourished about the year 1580, and held the office of registrar of the consistorial court, in a poetical address to Dr. Roland Thomas, Dean of Bangor; requests him to procure for him a cargo of slates, from *Aber Ogwen*. The proprietors of the Penrhyn estate long claimed the eighth part ad valorem of all the slates, quarried on that property; according to the price they sold for at the water side: and a superintendant accounted with the slate groviers, once a-year. About the year 1765, the then agent, Mr. Hughes, finding such a mode of collection intricate, and uncertain, adopted a different method, and let the quarries to workmen at an annual chief-rent of twenty shillings each. By this means the proceeds were about equal to what they had been previous to the alteration: viz. *eighty pounds* per annum.

Lord Penrhyn, viewing with an observant and benevolent eye, the little advantages derivable, either to the estate, or those engaged in the concern, by this puny and inefficient mode of working, determined on the judicious plan of opening a vast quarry. This was effected in the year 1782; and, in a few years, the number of hands employed amounted to no less than six hundred.* Proprietors of slate rocks in other parts, followed

* When his late lordship came into possession of the Penrhyn estates, the annual export of slates did not amount to more than a thousand tons. At present

ed his lordship's example; and the sum of money brought into Caernarvonshire tended to enrich the inhabitants, and materially benefit the country.

This quarry is of immense depth; and the singular appearance, from the rude and grotesque appearance of the residual cliffs, the bustling scene of the workmen on the different ledges of rock, the noise arising from disrupturing the strata by blasting, the separating and shaping the different laminæ, forms a scene, whose novelty must afford amusement to some, and its geological and commercial relations, render highly interesting to others. "Here I found several immense openings, with sides and bottoms, as rude as imagination can paint, that had been formed in getting the slate. On first surveying them, a degree of surprise is excited, how such yawning chasms could have been formed by any but the immediate operations of Nature; and even on more mature reflection, our astonishment at the efforts of man does not altogether subside."*

The slates were, for a long time, conveyed to the port by means of carts, at a very heavy expence. But lately an iron tram-road has been completed, which runs entirely from the quarry, and round the quay, an extent of six miles. This is a work nothing but Genius could have contrived, and energy executed. The mountainous nature of the country apparently defied the art of man, to accomplish such an undertaking. Yet, notwithstanding the numerous local obstacles, there are only four double inclined planes on the general line; the longest of which is two hundred and twenty yards. Down these, three waggons are let slide at a time, by means of machinery, consisting of a winch and a lever applied to a cylinder. This regulates the descent of the loaded, and the ascent, at the same time, of the empty vehicles. In this manner fifteen pass in a very

present, there are not less than one hundred tons per diem, conveyed from the quarries to Port Penrhyn. And from five to six hundred tons are shipped every week.

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 179.

very short space, which, being fastened together by chains, are drawn along the levels by two horses. These waggons, on an average, contain upwards of twelve tons of slates. The tramway is formed upon the most scientific principles, the wheels of the waggon are concave, and run upon a narrow convex bar, by which friction is greatly diminished, and much time gained. *Six* or *eight* horses now perform the work, which formerly required more than *eighty*. This is not only a saving to the proprietor, but in a county where hay and corn are scarce commodities, must be an object of importance to the residentiary population. Among many other additional improvements may be reckoned a *sawing mill*, which converts large fragments of slate rock into slabs, for hearth stones, chimney pieces, sepulchral monuments, fence, railing, &c. &c. The concern is, at present, conducted by Mr. Worthington, under a covenanted agreement with Lady Penrhyn.

The lofty rocks in this vicinity contain copper ore, molybdena, steatite, &c. &c. And *bones* are obtained from a rock on the eastern side of

NANT FRANCON, or the valley of Beavers, a corruption from *Nant yr Afanc*, is supposed to be so denominated from having been formerly a cover for those amphibious animals, no longer inhabitants of the country; but found, according to report, in this valley, less than a century ago. This formerly was a tremendous glen, or rather chasm; but, by the efforts of human industry, some of its wild and terrific appearances have been dissipated. It comprises a narrow strip of meadow land, surrounded by lofty mountains; through which meanders the small river Ogwen, towards the sea. Down a rocky height, called the *Benglog*, rush the waters of five lakes, into a deep pool beneath, forming a very picturesque and grand waterfall. This, consisting of three cataracts, is best viewed by descending from the road into the deep bottom beneath. The lower fall is the most considerable, over which the Ogwen rushes, roars, and rolls, in one sheet of foam and spray down an integral, and nearly perpendicular, rock. By climbing a broken rocky steep, the river is seen precipitating itself in a more majestic

jestic stream, through a chasm between two vertical cliffs. The third, some height above, is less romantic; but its broad expanse of water participates of the grand, immense, and singular mountain *Trivaen*,* filling the space behind; and in the foreground the waters are seen dashing in various directions among the loose masses of rock that lie scattered in the rugged bed of the river. Near the rudest part of the glen, on *Ogwen Bank*, an elegant pavilion, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, has been built for Lady Penrhyn. Surrounded with luxuriant plantations, it certainly forms a striking contrast with the bleak and barren mountains in the vicinity. And though considerable taste has been displayed, it would savour of poetic licence to call it, "an acre of Tempe among the rocks of Norway." From Bangor to the Benglog, the road is nearly the whole distance upon the ascent; but after this narrow pass, it extends by the side of Llyn Ogwen, and continues under the mountains, almost on a level, to Capel Cerrig; where the late Lord Penrhyn erected, for the accommodation of the public, a handsome inn; so that travellers through this dreary region, may now meet with good entertainment, and very excellent lodging. Since this inn and hotel has been occupied, it has become a fashionable resort. During the summer months, numerous genteel families, and others, make a temporary residence at Capel Cerrig, to enjoy the numerous diversified and interesting walks and rides, amidst the magnificent objects of the surrounding scenery.

This *Cerrig*, or *Curig*, to whom the chapel is dedicated, was a saint, who fixed his cell here, about the sixth century. *Lewis Glyn* Cothi, a bard, exposes, in a humourous manner, the iniquitous practices adopted by the mendicant friars in the dark ages,

* A particular description of this geological wonder, and some of less striking, but not less interesting, features, may be found in Pennant's Tours, Vol. II. p. 322. It is rather unaccountable that the indefatigable tourist, who accurately describes most of the objects in the vicinity, should have omitted this; and that the omission should not have been noticed by the editor of the late edition.

ages, to fleece their deluded admirers. Profiting by the veil of superstition, cast over the eyes of the people, they bartered with them for corn, cheese, bacon, &c. miniature images of certain reputed saints. Among numerous others, those of Curig and Seiriol were peculiarly negotiable, the effigy of the latter being reckoned infallible for the removal of inveterate disorders; and the former equally efficacious in the expulsion of evil spirits.

"Gurig lwyd dan gwr ei go'l,
Gwâs arall, a ddug Seiriol.
Beneath his cloak the begging friar bore
The guardian charm, grey Curig, to the door
Another Seiriol's healing image sold,
And found the useful saints, like modern gold.
LLOYD.

Returning through Nant Francon, and pursuing the eastern road, two miles from the pleasing village of ABER GWYNGREGIN, in a most romantic glen, through which a small rivulet finds its passage to the sea, is a very fine waterfall. On one side the hollow is flanked by a magnificent rock, called *Maes y gaer;* and a bridge, consisting of a single arch, with the accompaniments of wood and water, form a lovely foreground. *Rhaiadr mawr* includes two falls. The ravine is terminated by a mountain presenting a concave front, through a chasm of which the torrent precipitates its waters over two immense ledges of rock. The upper is broken into three, sometimes four divisions, by the rugged face of the impending cliff; but the lower one, upwards of sixty feet in height, forms a broad white sheet; that, from the snow-like dew of the spray, has been very aptly compared to the *Staubbach*, or dusty cascade, in Switzerland.

A small artificial mount on the western side of the stream is notable, as the site of a palace, erected by Llewelyn the Great; and where, according to some historians, an intrigue was discovered, between *William Bruce*, or *de Breos*, son of Reginald de

The other. Now you'r over take another,
Your drooping spirits to recover."

In 1772 an application was made to Parliament, and a generous aid was granted for the purpose of improving and securing this part of the road to Holyhead. A voluntary subscription, in which the city of Dublin bore a distinguished part, was also added; and under the judicious management of that able engineer, Mr. Sylvester, what was deemed beyond the power of human art to remedy, was speedily effected; the road is widened a proper breadth for carriages to pass each other, by cutting the solid rock; while the side towards the sea is secured by a wall built upon a series of arches, meeting the irregularity of the precipice, with circular holes, at regular distances to take the great quantities of water, descending from the mountains in rainy seasons. One obstacle, however, yet remains, that will probably for ever baffle the efforts of ingenuity: the sides of the mountain in some places rise nearly perpendicular the whole of the height;* but, in others, they project over the present road, and many disjointed masses, of precarious tenure, threaten to crush the traveller to atoms. The strata having the earth washed away by torrents, and rended by severe frosts, fragments at intervals fall, and, for a time, render the road utterly impassable: lapses of this kind are not unfrequent, and men are almost constantly employed to separate these huge masses, by blasting with gunpowder, to facilitate their removal, numbers of such are often lying in the road of several tons weight each; it sometimes happens that the goats, skipping from crag to crag, to browse the alpine shrub, detach fragments, sufficiently large, from the space they pass through, to prove fatal to persons passing at the time; the traveller, therefore, cannot divest himself of all fear, nor absolutely feel himself perfectly secure from danger. The road could only have been repaired at this time, not entirely made, as some state, it being defended

* Caswell, who was employed by Mr. Flamstead to measure its altitude, reported it 1545 feet above the beach at low water.

defended by a wall towards the sea, at a much earlier period. "We went over the famous precipice called Penman mawr, which fame has made abundance more frightful than it really is, indeed, very high, and if any one should fall from it, he would be dashed to pieces; yet, on the other hand, there is no danger of falling; and besides, there is now a wall built all the way on the edge of the precipice to secure them; those who have been at the hill or pass of Enterkin, in Scotland, know very well the danger there, is much greater."*

On the summit of a hill called *Braich y Dinas* rising out of Penmaen, are the ruins of a castle, the fortifications of which were capable of containing 20,000 men; the remains of walls are still standing, and a well, that supplied the garrison, is constantly full of water, furnished principally by the *condensed vapour* of the mountain.

This was considered the strongest post possessed by the Welsh in the district of Snowdon: it was of great magnitude, and so strong by its natural position, that a hundred men might have defended themselves against an army; in that age it was deemed impregnable, and here it was, the remains of the Welsh army were posted, pending the negociation betwixt Edward and Llewelyn.

The ruin consists of remains of ancient massy walls, constructed without mortar, including numerous circular buildings, probably vestiges of habitations; similar to those previously described at Tre'r Caeri. There cannot exist a doubt upon the mind of persons, who have attentively viewed the different fortified heights, still subsisting in Wales, but this was a military fortress, erected by the Britons to cover the passage of an army for the defence of Anglesea; notwithstanding what Governor Pownall has urged contrary to this generally received opinion. His conjectures of its having never been intended, as a defensitive post is, from the testimony of history; rendered nugatory; and to those who have visited the spot, his opinion, that

* See a Tour in Great Britain, printed by Strahan, 1725.

it was one of the consecrated places belonging to the Druids, will appear nothing better than antiquarian vagary.*

A Welsh poem,† written by *Sir Dafydd Owen*, states, that in the reign of Henry the eighth, there resided in the vicinity an ascetic of a peculiar character. If he possessed not an enviable situation, his property was desirable. For it seems the hermit was robbed, by a set of associated thieves; and the inventory of the goods purloined from this professed cell of privation, mortification, and penance, is a most humorous burlesque on the hypocrisy of the times.

CONWY.

This fine old fortified town is supposed by some to have been the *Conovium* of the Romans, but the site of that was evidently at a place still retaining the appellation of *Caer Rhûn*, some miles distant. The authentic annals of the place commence no earlier than with the history of its Castle, erected here A. D. 1284, by the command of Edward the first: as a further security, in addition to Caernarvon, against the insurrective spirit of the Welsh.

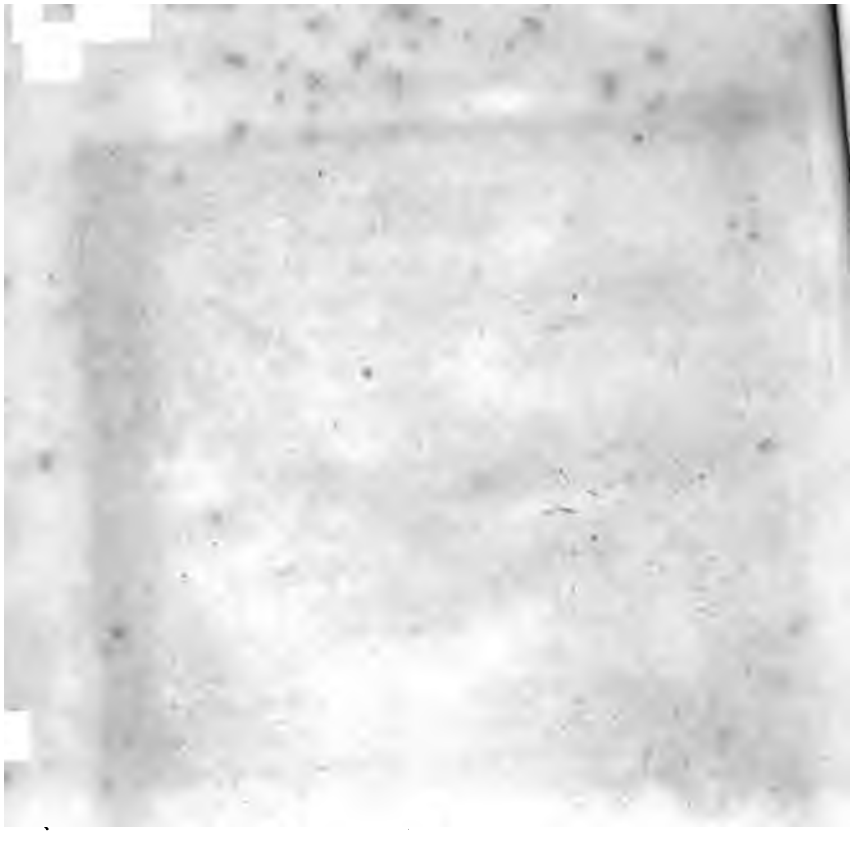
Few of the events, connected with this fortress, have been recorded. Soon after its erection the royal founder was besieged in it, and the garrison almost reduced by famine, to an unconditional surrender. They were at length extricated from their perilous situation, by the arrival of a fleet freighted with provisions, and reinforcements.

In the year 1399, Richard the second, previous to his return from Ireland, had commanded the troops, raised in his behalf against the usurper *Bolingbroke*, to make their rendezvous at Conwy. The friends of the monarch had mustered strong, under the command of the earl of Salisbury. But wearied by the

* Archæologia, Vol. III. p. 303.

† The title of the work is, "Cywydd yspeilwyr Meudwy'r Penmaen mawr."

CONWAY CASTLE.



the delays and tergiversation of that ill-fated prince, many returned to their respective homes. A number, however, sufficient to have made a strong attempt in his favour still remained, attached to the royal cause; had not the king panic-struck at the opposing forces, privately, by night, decamped from this impregnable strong hold. Shortly after, by the insinuating treachery of the earl of Northumberland, he fell into a most detestable snare, which eventually cost him both his crown, and life.

At the commencement of the civil wars, it was garrisoned for king Charles the first, by Dr. John Williams, archbishop of York. To whose custody numbers of the country gentlemen confided their plate and other valuables and moveables, receiving a receipt from the arch prelate, who considered himself answerable for their restoration on the return of better times. He at the same time bestowed the government of the castle on his nephew *William Hookes*, in the year 1643. In May 1645, Prince Rupert impolitically superseded the archbishop in the command of North Wales. Irritated at this insulting conduct, it being done without the smallest attention, to give him any virtual security, for the property, of which he had previously received the charge; Williams became decisively disgusted: and having received an offer from *Mytton* of protection, under the Parliamentarian authority, he joined issue with that general, and assisted in the reduction of Conwy. The town was taken by storm on August 15, 1646, and the castle surrendered on the 10th of November. For these services, the archbishop, who had received a wound in the neck, obtained a general pardon for his prior opposition to the Parliament; and a release from the sequestration, that had been made of his estates: and Mytton, whose character partook more of haughtiness than avarice, restored to every individual the property, previously entrusted to the arch prelate's care.

The existing authorities appear, for a time, to have evinced unusual forbearance towards this fortress. The Parliamenta-

ces, while they dismantled other castles, laid no violent
s on this, subsequent to its capitulation; either struck with
ation for such a magnificent building, or with a view to
y moderation the minds of the country. This conciliat-
spirit, however, was far from being manifested by their
successors in power. A grant had been made of it by
Charles to the earl of Conwy and Kilulta, who no sooner
tained possession, than he ordered an agent to remove
ber, iron, lead, and other valuable materials, and trans-
hem to Ireland, under pretence, for his majesty's ser-
but, they were generally supposed, afterwards to have
converted to buildings and repairs on the earl's estates,
t country. In vain did the three deputy-lieutenants for
anagement of the royal affairs in North Wales, remon-
e against such demolishing proceedings. Their objec-
were over-ruled, the earl persisted in his plan; and this
e pile was rendered roofless and floorless, and the whole
y reduced to its present condition.*

bsequent to the conquest of the country, Edward with consort Eleanor, accompanied by the chief English nobility and gentry, spent a Christmas here, in all the varied festivities a luxurious court could wish. The hall, crowded with chivalrous knights, and admiring ladies, resounded with the sounds of feudal times; and its walls re-echoed the voice of merriment and mirth.

Hence were issued also many of the severe edicts against the stubborn Welsh, who, though conquered, were not subdued; and which instigated the bards to indulge in all the malice of unqualified sarcasm. From the unroofed and unprotected state to which it was reduced by the earl of Conway's agent, it necessarily suffered material injuries from time to time by the agency of winds and weather. The heap of rubbish remaining in the river, nearly opposite the castle, once constituted a round tower,

* See a letter addressed to the commissioners on this subject, dated October 6, 1665, signed Conwy and Kilulta: published in the Appendix to Pennant's Tours.

tower, terminating a curtain rampart, which extended from angle of the town wall. A similar one, running out from other end, has long been destroyed. The uses of these we prevent an enemy from making any approach by water, might have endangered the safety of the place, and for protection of the vessels lying in the harbour. A tower on south side, by the imprudence of the inhabitants, in quar the foundation for slates, some years since, rent asu Part standing erect, and part hanging in an oblique direc on the surbasing rock, the whole forms a singular instance of a dilacerated building.

This castle, like its rival in strength and grandeur, is going fast to decay; and the dilapidating hand of time promises soon to deprive the county of one of its principal ornamental objects.

"Proud Pile! thy tempest-beaten towers, still rear
Their heads sublime, and to the angry storm
Bid bold defiance; though their aged brows
Bear visible the marks of strong decay,
While superstition, with a frenzied eye,
And wildering fear, that horrid form surveys,
Affright the lonely wanderer from thy walls.
Far hence thou busy world, nor here intrude
Thy sounds of uproar, arguing much of fear,
And impotent alarms. Behold, fond man,
This feeble monument of mortal pride,
Where time and desolation reign supreme
With mildest havock; o'er the solemn scene
In silence pause; and mark this pictured truth;
That not alone, the proudest works of man
Must perish, but, as this tow'ring fabric,
That lifts its forehead to the storm, till time
And the wild winds shall sweep it from its base,
Pass but a few short hours, the dream of life
Is fled; and sinks to the cold grave man's faded form."

If the architect was the same person who built Caernarvon, as generally allowed, he must have here used all his exertion, and endeavoured to display his most transcendant skill. For

He removed, therefore, the religious to a new foundation of his own, erected at *Maynan*, on the Denbighshire side of the river: and the conventual church was made parochial, with three officiating chaplains, two English, and one Welsh.

Scarcely a vestige of the monastic buildings is now traceable: indeed Leland records, that when the institution was translated, part of the castle was probably erected on the site.*

In the church a singular *epitaph* evinces the peculiar fecundity of two persons belonging to the family of *Hookes*. "*Here lyeth the body of* NICHOLAS HOOKES *of* CONWAY, *Gent. who was the* 41*st child of his father* WILLIAM HOOKES, ESQ. *by* ALICE *his wife, and the father of twenty-seven children;* who died the 20th *day of* MARCH, 1637."

In the principal street is an old mansion called the *Plas mawr*, having several initials in front, and over the gateway ANNO ÆTATIS. The apartments, which are numerous, are ornamented with divers emblems, and groups of figures, disposed of, over the ceilings and pannels of the walls, interspersed with numerous coats of arms. This is said to have been erected by *Thomas Wynn, Esq.* in the reign of Elizabeth. Indeed the whole manifests the *motley* mode of internal decorations, adopted in domestic architecture at that period.

By a charter of Edward, Conway was constituted a free borough, and the mayor was also to be constable of the castle. The town is at present governed by an alderman, recorder, coroner, water bailiff, and two serjeants at mace, elected annually.

The number of houses is 182, and inhabitants 889. The *port* is a dry harbour, frequented by a few small coasting vessels, but the trade is very inconsiderable: an extensive quay ranges on the eastern side of the town wall.

The *ferry* of vast importance, as lying on one of the great roads between London and Ireland, is justly viewed as a very hazardous passage, and many are the accidents that have unavoidably occurred at times. In the year 1806 the mail boat was swamped, and only two lives were saved.

The

* Collectanea, Vol. I. p. 78.

The spring tides rise about twelve feet, when the [illegible] is about half a mile across; at low water, not above fifty yards. But owing to sand banks, the fluctuations are very great.

At the same time that plans and estimates for a bridge across the Menai straights were made out, a communication was proposed between the two banks of this river by similar means. And under the present active auspices of the post-office, the desirable object may, perhaps, in a few years receive its accomplishment.

The *pearl* fishery, noticed here so early as the Roman period, and the boast of the country in succeeding ages, is now held in little estimation, although the species of muscle, *Mya margaritifera* producing them, is still found in the sandy bed of the river.

The peninsula containing the hundred of Creiddin, situated on the eastern side of the river, terminates in the promontory of the Great Ormes Head, or Llandudno rocks. The very lofty cliffs are almost perpendicular, and frequented by a similar description of the feathered tribes, observable on the opposite shore of Priestholme Island.

On this singular tract, are two small churches. In the parish of Eglwys Rhos, stood the ruins of the celebrated *Diganwy castle*. This called by the English historians *Gannoc*, was supposed to have been erected about the time of the Norman conquest. But most probably anterior to that period. The Welsh historians, say an ancient city subsisted here, which A. D. 810 was destroyed by lightning. And this Camden supposed was the Deorum of the Itinerary, so called from having been a station for part of the *Nervii Dictenses* in the Roman army. Long was it a place of consequence, while Welsh and English contentions subsisted, and was finally dismantled by him, whom it had protected in the year 1260.

The structure appears to have comprised two round massy towers placed on the summits of low adjacent hills. Two parallel curtain walls connected those and defended the intervening

vening passages. One of these with fragments of foundation walls are yet traceable. And the position was admirably adapted to defend the entrance into the river. The limestone strata of this tract contains copper ore of a productive quality. Several attempts at different periods appear to have been made, for procuring the subterraneous treasures of this district, with varied, but not flattering results. Lately however an old mine worked by a new company of adventurers, has answered the wishes of those engaged in the concern, and promises to amply compensate their spirited exertions.

Not far distant from BODSCALLAN, an ancient seat of the Wynn's, now of the Mostyn's, is

GLODDAETH a seat of *Sir Thomas Mostyn*: a fine old mansion, erected by an ancestor of the present proprietor, in the reign of Elizabeth. It is situated on an extensive limestone rock, and was environed with numerous plantations of indigenous derivation. These have in a great degree given place to more modern embellishments. The walks, lawns, &c. are softened features, in the striking and surrounding scenery. The library is celebrated, as one of the few, possessing valuable manuscripts of Welsh Literature.

MARLE to which the property of Conwy ferry has been annexed, is little more than a shell of a good mansion, it having suffered severely by fire several years since.

CONOVIUM an ancient town in this part, called by Camden *Caer Hen*, or the old city, but by the Welsh *Caer Rhun*, from a prince of that name, having had a palace here; was situated on a flat part of the margin of the river. For centuries inscribed bricks, urns, pottery-ware, lamps, vases, and various Roman antiquities, induced the curious historic investigator, to fix here the station of the itinerary, nineteen miles distant from *Varis* and twenty-four from *Segontium*.

On further researches, pottery ware of the most curious kinds, and embellished with the most fanciful, tasteful, and brilliant figures were discovered. Some had impressions of men, clad in armour, others with dogs in full pursuit of the stag. Of these

these some were sky-blue, pale, and vivid red, of a fine glaze, and others unglazed.

A most curious piece of antiquity was at the same time found, that wore the semblance of a different era. This was a brazen shield of a circular form, having on its face concentric embossed rings, or circles with numerous, studs, or pins, from the circumference to the centre; where a sharp piece of wrought iron, five inches in length, formed the fixed and rallying point. The inside of this shield, about a foot in diameter, was stuffed with hair, and covered with leather. This was doubtless a weapon of defence, which bespeaks an age subsequent to the period, assigned for the origin of the place.

That lover of antiquarian research the late rev. H. D. Griffiths, on whose property the remains were situated, was induced to make many and repeated inquiries, respecting what curious vestiges had been traced, or probably yet might be traceable. And on mature investigation, he thought sufficient reasons subsisted, to contradict the generally received opinion of a bath, and hypocaust having been at any former time discovered here.

In a platform, situated on a small mount, which formed a parallelogram, measuring a hundred and fifty yards in length, and about a hundred in breadth, the foundations of numerous apartments were discovered, on clearing away the superincumbent mass. These were buildings, it is supposed, designated for the various operations of an extensive Roman pottery.

About this time the ruins of the old wall being further examined the vestiges of a Roman *villa* were discovered comprising several rooms: five in the front, inclusive of a *sudatory*.

Caer Rhun, is at present a pleasing little village, surrounded with wood, and open to the water. The vale of the Conwy, teems with interesting prospects. It is watered by a river, whose natural beauties, as well as historic scenes, have occasioned its celebrity to be reiterated full oft in song; and adorned by all the diversity that can arise from a well wooded, highly cultivated country, contrasted with the variation of mountainous scenery.

On

On the western side, the abrupt termination of the Snowdon chain, down the declivities of which, through innumerable chasms, fissures, and gullies, rush the superfluous waters of the lakes above, to mingle with the parent ocean. The scenery is the most varied about *Pont Dolgarrog*, and *Pont Porth Llwyd*, alpine stone bridges thrown across the streams issuing from *Llyn Cowlid* and *Llyn Geirionedd*; each in passing the rocky barrier forms a considerable fall, but the latter by far the most magnificent, is called by the people, *Rhaiadr mawr*. This, which Mr. Bingley viewed as the most grand and picturesque waterfall of any he had seen in North Wales, is thus strongly described: "I ascended along a winding path, which after about a quarter of an hour's walk, conducted me to the bed of the river, near the station from whence it was to be seen to the greatest advantage. The water in the river, which runs from a pool among the mountains above, called Llyn Eigiau,* from the late dry weather, was very inconsiderable. The scene, however, was still highly picturesque. From the upper part two streams, one of them much the broadest, descended, at some distance from each other. The range of rock down which the water was thrown, was very wide and extremely rude, being formed, in horizontal ledges, into deep clefts and enormous chasms. Around the whole, and on the various lodgments of the rocks, were numerous pendant shrubs. The dark shades of the clefts, and the irregular brilliancy of the prominent features of the scene, from the reflected rays of the sun contrasted again with the foaming of the water, were truly grand. The colours of the rock, which were every

* Mr. Evans, in his map, has not been correct in the situations of two or three of the mountain pools on the west side of the road leading from Conwy to Llanrwst. Llyn Geirioned, which he has marked as supplying the river that runs under Pont Porthlwyd, is somewhat south of the station in the map; and Llyn Cowlid, which I have visited, but which is altogether uninteresting, I shall not describe, is within two miles of Capel Curig. Llyn Eigiau supplies the water that forms this cataract, and flows to Pont Porth-lwyd.

every where also very dark, were rich and highly varied. The streams united a little above the middle of the fall: they rushed from thence in foam over the rocks, and from the deep shelvings, in many places the water was entirely hidden from me below. In addition to this, nearly every different stratum of rock threw it into a fresh direction. In the whole scene there was the utmost irregularity. On the right of the cataract, the inclosing rocks were nearly perpendicular, very lofty and crowned with pendant foliage. These on the left were very high and towering, adorned on the lodgements with grass and ferns."*

Llyn Geirionedd, has strong attachments to lay upon those who profess to be friendly to the votaries of the Muses; or have minds alive to genuine poesy. On the margin of this lake, *Taliesin*, a prince among British poets, who flourished about the year 560; chiefly took up his residence. He was a foundling of no usual kind. *Elphin*, son of Gwyddno Goronhir, had received the grant of a salmon weir for his support, and on a certain day, while fishing, he found floating on the water a child, concealed in a leathern bag; the young prince felt instant compassion for the exposed infant, and directed, that proper care should be taken of him till he grew up. Elphin, is said to have flourished in consequence; and the eleve addressed to his deliverer a most pathetic and moral ode, intitled, *Dyhuddiant Elphin*, supposed to have been delivered the night he was found.

Amid those dense and extensive natural groves of venerable oaks, which clothe the rocks projecting between the Conwy and the Llygwy, stands

GWYDIR or *Gwedir*, an ancient mansion, erected as intimated by the initials and date over the gateway, by John Wynne ap Meredith, in the year 1555.

The name has been derived from *Gwy*, water, and *tir*, land; past

* Vol. I. p. 138.

part of the adjacent grounds being subject to the river inundations. But Mr. Pennant thought it received the distinctive appellation from several sanguinary conflicts between British chieftains, that took place near the spot.

The buildings, though extensive, are irregular, ranged in the quadrangular style, comprising an outer and inner court; but the structure has little to boast as to architectural design. That it was the first house in Wales, accommodated with glass windows, is too futile for animadversion. On an eminence commanding a view over the rich meadows of the Conwy, stood *Upper Gwyder*, erected by Sir John Wynn, in the year 1604. The house was a few years since taken down, and no part left except the family chapel, a small neat looking building, in the pointed style; but miserably marred within by its professed decorations: scriptural figures badly designed, and worse executed.

Gwydir, is at present the property of Lord Gwydir, in right of his Lady Priscilla, Baroness Willoughby, eldest sister of Robert, late Duke of Ancaster.

The former residence of the Wynns, has witnessed several distinguished persons of that ancient family. Sir John, the founder, was a man of great abilities. He went early to London, where studying the law he distinguished himself, and soon rose to eminence. His consequence in the profession soon attracted the notice of the court; of which he became a favourite and follower. He was an eccentric genius, haughty in his views, and austere in his measures; as will appear by the injunctions for the regulation of one part of the establishment of his household, contained in a formula, called,

Sir John Wynne of Gwedir's instructions to his chaplain, John Price, how to govern himself in his service.

First, You shall have the chamber, I shewed you in my gate, private to yourself, with lock and key, and all necessaries.

In the morning I expect you should rise, and say prayers in my

my hall, to my household below, before they go to work, and when they come in at nygt--that you call before you all the workmen, especially the yowth, and take accompt of them of their belief, and of what Sir Meredith taught them. I beg you to continue for the more part in the lower house: you are to have onlye what is done there, that you may inform me of any misorder there. There is a baylyf of husbandry, and a porter, who will be commanded by you.

The morninge after you be up, and have said prayers, as afore, I wo^d^ you to bestow it in study, or any commendable exercise of your body.

Before dinner you are to com up and attend grace, or prayers if there be any publicke; and to set up, if there be not greater strangers, above the chyldren, who you are to teach in your own chamber.

When the table, from half downwards, is taken up, then are you to rise and to walk in the alleys near at hand, until grace time, and to come in then for that purpose.

After dinner, if I be busy, you may go to bowles, shuffel bord, or any other honest decent recreation, until I go abroad. If you see me voyd of business, and go to ride abroad, you shall command a gelding to be made ready by the grooms of the stable, and to go with me. If I go to bowles, or shuffel bord, I shall lyke of your company, if the place be not made up with strangers. I wold have you go every Sunday in the year to some church hereabouts, to preache, giving warnynge to the parish to bring the yowths at after noon to the church to be catekysed; in which poynt is my greatest care that you be paynfull and dylygent.

Avoyd the alehowse, to sytt and keepe drunkards company ther, being the greatest discredit your function can have.

He had, doubtless, laid down other maxims for the good government of his household, in all the principal departments of the system. These, could they be collected, would furnish a set

set of very useful and instructive lessons for conducting the domestic concerns of modern mansions.

Sir John Wynn, previously mentioned, as the constructor of the Upper Gwyder, was a learned antiquary, and indefatigable collector. Numerous gleanings, respecting Welsh affairs, he accumulated, under the title of The History of the Gwydir Family. An edition of this work was printed in a small volume; and one in quarto, among Miscellanies, by the Hon. Daines Barrington.

The character of this person appears to have been unjustly aspersed, and his memory subjected to undeserved ignominy. The tradition of the country holds him up to view, as a great oppressor; and for his vast injustice, the people have directed his perturbed spirit to take up its restless abode among the ragged rocks, and restless waters of the neighbouring cataract of *Rhaiadr y Wenol*. This, like many other popular prejudices, has hitherto been unaccounted for. But the cause will not be difficult to trace. About that period the ferment was strong, between lay and spiritual power, respecting the alienation and recovery of ecclesiastical property. The Wynns were among the great lay impropriators, to whom had been granted by the Crown, some few of the spoils at the dissolution of the monasteries. They, as many now do, viewing tythe as their most eligible property, were exceedingly tenacious of it. While on the other side, the clergy considered the whole as the patrimony of the church: and any detention of such, an act of sacrilege. Continued altercations between this family, and the bishops of Bangor occurred on the subject. And as might be expected from the complexion of the times, the popular opinion supported the clerical conduct. Out of these unhappy differences, for the comfort of the country, arose the obloquy, that consigns to Sir John's spirit the dismal habitation.

Whoever now may happen to visit this part to view the fine falls of the Llygwy, will have to lament the changes taking place

place in the vicinity. While in the upper part of the vale, the young and new plantations start up in sweet luxuriance, on each side of the river; here lie in all directions the venerable oaks and ash: and ranges of hills, say, we once were finely clad. The Dryads and the Naiads alarmed at the noise of saws and axes have, affrighted, fled. The felling appears general, and ere long the boast of this part of the country, "the Oaks of Gwydir" will be no more.

END OF CAERNARVONSHIRE.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

AT the period of the Roman invasion the district now comprising the county of Denbigh, in Welsh denominated *Sir Dinbech*, was comprised in that part of Cambria, occupied by the *Ordovices;* who, if the statement of an ingenious antiquary be correct, after having previously been seated in the country, now included in Shropshire, to the north of the *Huiccii* of Bede, or the *Jugantes* of Tacitus, extended their dominions over the woodlands of the present Staffordshire, the plains of East-Cheshire, and the mountainous parts of North Wales. Their progress to the northwest, therefore, must have been over the territory, constituting the counties of Flint and Denbigh; and as they proceeded, the *Carnabii,* and the *Cornavii,* would consequently take possession of the parts left unprotected in their rear; while the increasing numbers of the Ordovices would gradually expand, and people the solitary and desolate wastes, situated on the western sea*.

Under the subordinating policy of the Romans, this tract nominally formed a portion of *Venedotia,* one of the minor partitions of the grand imperial divisions in the island, that received the appellation of *Britannia secunda.* Notwithstanding, however, the violent conflicts sustained by the inhabitants of the surrouuding districts, and the gasconading boasts, that Cambria

* While in possession of Shropshire, they acknowledged *Uriconium* for their capital. "This county they certainly possessed, the town of *Mediolanum* in the north of it, being particularly ascribed to them by Ptolomy, and Richard.—The last, viz. Staffordshire and East-Cheshire, were certainly not inhabited at the first by the Carnabii; that tribe, as I have already shewn, being originally planted upon the banks of the Dee, and along the western side of the county*."

* Whitaker's Hist. of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 203.

Cambria was subdued; yet few, if any vestiges remain, to mark the footsteps of the professed conquerors; nor do any historic records attest the subjugation of this part of the country. Though stations and encampments, ascribable to the Romans, may be satisfactorily traced in the adjacent counties of Montgomery, Chester, and Flint; still no discovery of a similar nature has, hitherto, occurred in this. Holt has indeed been considered an outpost, or advanced work to the grand station *Devana*, Chester; but the site of the fortification lies in the parish of Farndon, Flintshire, on the eastern side of the river.

The decline and fall of the Empire produced a most fatally important change in the affairs of Britain; and this part of it, if it did not first feel the shock, subsequently experienced, for a considerable time, the disastrous effects of a disorganised government, and the assailing powers of malignant and inveterate foes. When the island became a prey to more uncivilized invaders, the portion of which Denbighshire formed an integral part, became a theatre for the display of the most sanguinary conflicts. Dismay succeeded the Roman dynasty, and ravaging warfare and cruel barbarities, attended the introduction of Saxon auxiliaries. Whether or not, according to the historian of Manchester, the adjacent tribes made effectual inroads into the territory of the Ordovices, and eventually annihilated their independence, is not sufficiently elucidated by existing documents, so as not to remain an undecided question: conjecture after conjecture has been advanced, without tending in the least degree, to form the smallest clue towards arriving at conclusive evidence. It is, however, manifest from united authentic authorities, that the different states in the vicinity, if the position be admitted, became in their turn the victims of unprovoked hostilities, and unjustifiable invasion. The *Coritavii*, *Coritani*, *Dobuni*, and *Cateullani*, shortly served to gratify northern ambition by their submission, and combined under one usurper, to form a large and powerful kingdom in the celebrated Heptarchy. This denominated *Mearchland*, and rendered in Latin Mercia from *mearch*, a limit, or boundary,

was by far the most extensive, if not the most formidable of the whole Saxon confederation. It was founded by Crida about the year 586, enlarged by Penda, and soon after, under Peada, converted to Christianity. During the reign of Offa, who succeeded Ethelbald, by popular election, the Cymry suffered prodigiously from the effects of his warlike genius, and enterprizing prowess. Curtailed in a great measure of their independent range on the banks of the Severn, and the Wye, they made frequent incursions into the Mercian territory, to retaliate which, and prevent such aggressions in future, the Mercian monarch obtained accumulated strength, by the prompt alliance of several other Saxon states; and with the conjoint forces marched into Wales*. The Britons, unable to withstand the combined armies, quitted the open country between the two distinguished rivers, before mentioned, and retreated to the inaccessible recesses in the mountains. Impregnable amid their natural fastnesses, they awaited, with anxious expectation, the attack of the invaders. But disappointed in their view of offensive operations, for the Saxons intimidated, had returned into Mercia, they again became emboldened, to make fresh, and more vexatious inroads†. To terminate this depredatory warfare, alike disgraceful to the policy of the government, as injurious to the people; Offa determined effectually to put an end to such incursions in future. For which purpose he marched at the head of a powerful army, drove back the aggressors, and pursuing them to their strong holds, concluded an advantageous peace, dictating nearly his own terms‡. By virtue of this conventional truce, for nothing further did it prove in the sequel, he annexed the districts of Wales, extending eastward, as far as the Wye to the kingdom of Mercia, peopled them with Anglo-Saxons; and severed them from the Britons, by an immense ditch and rampart, extending from the

* Welsh Chronicle, p. 19.

† Langhorni Chronicum Regum Anglorum, p. 292.

‡ Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 165.

the estuary of the Dee, to the confluence of the Hafren and Gwy, the Severn and the Wye*. This is still visible in places, and yet retains the denomination of *Clawdd Offa.*

" Offa's ditch extended from the river Wye, along the counties of Hereford and Radnor, into that of Montgomery, where I shall take it up at its entrance into North Wales, at Pwll y Piod, an ale-house on the road between Bishop's castle and Newtown; from thence it passes northward, near Mellington-hall, near which is an encampment called Caer-din, by Brompton-mill, where there is a mount; Linor park near Montgomery, Forden-heath, Nant-cribba, at the foot of an antient fortress, Layton-hall, and Buttington church. Here it is lost for five miles; the channel of the Severn probably serving for that space as a continuation of this famous boundary; which, just below the conflux of the Bele and the Severn, appears again, and passes by the churches of Llandysilio and Llanymynech, to the edge of the vast precipitous limestone rock in the last parish: from this place it runs by Tref y Clawdd, over the horse-course on Cefn y Bwch, above Oswestry, then above Sellatyn; from whence it descends to the Ceiriog, and thence to Glyn, where there is a large breach, supposed to be the place of interment of the English, who fell in the battle of Crogen, hereafter to be mentioned: it then goes by Chirk-castle, and, below Cefn y Wern, crosses the Dee, and the Rhiwabon road, near Plas Madoc, forms part of the turnpike road to Wrexham, to Pentre Bychan, where there is a mount; then by Plâs Bower to Adwy'r Clawdd, near Minera; by Brymbo, crosses Cegidog river, and through a little valley on the south side of Bryn Yorkyn mountain, to Coed Talwrn, and Cae-dwn, a farm near Treyddin chapel, in the parish of Mold (pointing towards the Clwydian hills;) beyond which, there can no farther traces be discovered.

" Cae Down, or rather Cae Twn, according to doctor Davies, signifies fractura, than which nothing can be more expressive

* Humphrey Llwyd's Breviary, p. 51.

of the ending of this famous work, which, as I have not long since observed, terminates in a flat cultivated country, on the farm of Cae Twn, near Treyddyn chapel, in the parish of Mold. The termination is remote from any hill, or place of strength: it is therefore reasonable to imagine, that this mighty attempt was here suddenly interrupted by some cause, of which we must ever remain ignorant.

"No reason appears why its course was not continued from sea to sea. It seems probable that Offa imagined that the Clwydian hills, and the deep valley, that lies on this side at their base, would serve as a continuance of his prohibitory line: he had carried his arms over most part of Flintshire, and vainly imagined, that his labors would restrain the Cambrian inroads in one part, and his orders prevent any incursions beyond these natural limits, which he had decreed should be the boundaries of his new conquests.

"It is observable, that in all parts, the ditch is on the Welsh side; and that there are numbers of small artificial mounts, the sites of small forts, in many places along its course. These were garrisoned, and seem intended for the same purposes as the towers in the famous Chinese wall, to watch the motions of the neighbors, and to repel the hostile incursions*."

Mr. Pennant, confining his topographical researches chiefly in this narration, to the northern part of the principality, has been too hasty in drawing the conclusions, that the termination was at *Cae Twn*; and that this line of demarcation did not originally stretch from sea to sea; or at least from the estuaries of the Wye and Dee. It is admissible to suppose the Mercian prince, having with the confederate forces penetrated Denbighshire, and overran the greater part of Flintshire, would continue the boundary to the utmost extent of the subjugated country. It is probable, as a similar work reaches below the abbey of Basingwork, situated near Holywell, on the margin of the Dee, and running nearly parallel for a very considerable distance,

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 350.

distance, that this, though no further traceable than already described, found its conclusion at the same natural barrier*. The above account of this singular historic vestige is taken up only from that point of the line, where it enters North Wales. It extended in a southerly direction through part of Radnorshire, in which county it may be traced near Knighton, proceeding through Herefordshire, by Lentwardine, and Brachy hill; when after skirting Monmouthshire, and entering Gloucestershire, it terminates in the parish of Tiddenham, nearly opposite to the present town of Chepstow.

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This work of immense labour, ascending mountains, traversing craigs, crossing deep vallies, and extending in length, one hundred miles, was an undertaking, if intended to mark the confines of the respective countries, calculated to be of very little use; or if meant, as a line of defence between hostile nations, and to afford greater security to the Mercian kingdom, evinced the most futile policy: in either case it was an evidence both of the ignorance and barbarism of the age.

Though an interval of peace had given Offa some respite from the harassing visits of his ravaging neighbours, and furnished him with a portion of leisure to complete this celebrated dyke, the Welsh, alive to the injuries they had suffered, and strongly sensible of the disgrace they had incurred, in

 suffering

* Offa ad perpetuam regnorum Angliæ & Walliæ, memoriam & ditionem habendam fecit fossam per longam, quæ ab austro *juxta Bristollum*, sub montibus Walliæ jugiter se extendit in boream fluviosque Sabrinæ & Deæ, in eorum pene primordiis transcendit, and *sic usque ad ostium fluv: Deæ juxta Cestriam, & ultra juxta castrum de Flint*, sub colle carbonum in mare se extendit." Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 396.

† Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 352.

suffering part of their most fertile territory to be alienated by the insatiable foe, were rankling with revenge and meditating retaliation. Concealing their feelings, under the mask of indifference, the Saxons little suspected the plan they had secretly concerted for its destruction. Imitating the policy of the enemy, they formed an alliance with the kings of Sussex and Northumberland. Joined by numerous auxiliaries, the Welsh suddenly assailed Clawdd Offa, on the evening of St. Stephen's day; and under cover of a dark night, with the assistance of the peasantry, they made a breach in the rampart; disrupted a small portion, and filled up the dyke a sufficient length, to afford a passage for the confederate army; which, with a promptitude, calculated to insure success, attacked the camp of Offa, at early dawn. The Saxon soldiers, depending upon the late truce, had relaxed in their discipline, or were occupied in the religious observance of the festival: in either case, they evinced a deficiency in necessary vigilance, were surprised in an unarmed state, and a great number put to the sword*.

The Mercian monarch attempted to rally the scattered and panic-struck forces, but in vain; with the utmost difficulty he brought off the small remnant of his army; and narrowly escaped himself with life from the disaster. Breathing slaughter, and meditating revenge, he reluctantly retreated to his own dominions. For this insulting violation of the late compact, on the part of the Welsh, the first ebullitions of his rage were directed to the hostages whom he treated with the utmost severity, and doomed their wives and children to perpetual slavery.

His fury unsubsided, and his vindictive spirit unsatiated, he once more attempted to pour out his vengeance on the Welsh. But indebted to their woods and mountains for successful defence, while their energies were confined to desultory warfare, they were enabled to make continual and destructive irruptions

* Math. Paris Vita duorum Offarum Merciorum Regum &c. p. 975, 976.

ruptions against the forces of the enemy. But breaking through this wise precautionary system, they adopted the impolitic and hazardous measure of risking a general engagement. The hostile parties met on a plain near the sea coast, in the county of Flint, denominated Rhyddlan marsh. The battle was long and sanguinary, but at length victory declared in favour of the Saxons; the Welsh were completely defeated with terrible slaughter, their valiant commander Caradoc, a chieftain of the Cornubian line, slain*. It has been remarked, that on this fatal occasion, the victor commanded the men and children to be massacred, his cruelty barely excluding the female part from this cruel proscription†. But according to tradition, few were left to gratify his barbarity, the remnant, who had escaped the enemy's sword, during the action, having fled with precipitation over the marsh, and voluntarily perished on the sands by the influent tide. The Cambrian records state, that Offa died soon after this memorable event; while some historians assert that he fell with Meredith, prince of Pembroke, in the affair at Rhyddlan‡. The weakness of this great work, as a defensive barrier was more strikingly apparent after the death of Offa. The Welsh laughed at the tyrant's folly, despised his ineffectual toils; and with irresistible fury carried their arms, and committed their ravages far and wide, over the adjacent English marches§. It was necessary to enter into a brief detail respecting such a celebrated boundary, because many writers on Wales, have mistaken the subject‖, confounding

* Welsh Chronicle, p. 20.

† Math. Paris Vita Duorum Offarum, &c. p. 976.

‡ MS. collections by Vaughan of Hengwrt. Of the exact place or manner of his death, Turner, in his History of the Anglo Saxons, is totally silent, but intimates, it happened about A. D. 794; and the battle of Rhyddlan is represented as occurring in 795.

§ Joannes Sarisburiensis in his Panocration, as quoted in Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 698. Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 230.

‖ Even in Gibson's Camden, part of one, and part of the other is described as, Clawdd Offa.

ing this with another line of severation, equal in magnitude, but not in extent, called

Wat's Dyke, which runs nearly in a direction with Offa's, but at unequal distances, from about five or six hundred yards, to three miles; or in some instances more, till the latter, from cultivation, disappears. The former is discoverable at Maesbury, in the vicinity of Oswestry, and terminates at the river Dee, near Basingwerk. The southern end of the line is lost in morassy ground; but was probably continued to the river Severn. Northward its course extended to Hen-ddinas, and by Pentre'r clawdd to Gobowen, the site of a small fort, called Bryn y Castell, in the parish of Whittington; then crosses Prys-henlle common, in the parish of St. Martin; goes over the Ceiriog, between Brynkinallt, and Pont-y blew forge, and the Dee, below Nant y Bela; from whence it passes through Wynnstay park, by another Pentre'r clawdd, or township on the ditch to Erddig—where there was another strong-fort on its course: from Erddig it goes above Wrexham, near Melin Puleston, by Dolydd, Maesgwyn, Rhos-ddu Croes-oneiras, Mr. Shakerley's Gwersyllt: crosses the Alyn, and through the township of Llai, to Rhydin, in the county of Flint; above which is Caerestyn, a British post: from hence it runs by Hope church, along the side of Molesdale, which it quits towards the lower part, and turns to Mynydd Sychdyn, Monachclog near Northop, by Northop mills, Bryn-moel, Coed y llys, Nant y Flint, Cefn y coed, through the strand fields, near Holywell, to its termination below the abbey of Basingwerk*."

"It is remarkable, that Wat's dike should have been overlooked, or confounded with that of Offa by all writers, except by Thomas Churchyard the poet, who assigns the object of the work: that the space intervening between the two was free ground, where the Britons and *Saxons* might meet with safety for all commercial purposes†." But here, with due respect for the general

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 349.

† Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 353.

general accuracy of Mr. Ps. statements, let the panegyrist of Wales, in the age of Elizabeth, be heard himself. After speaking in praise of Ruabon Church, he thus proceeds,

> " Within two myles, there is a famous thing
> Cal'de Offaes Dyke, that reacheth farre in length:
> All kind of ware, the Danes might thether bring,
> It was free ground and cal'de the Britaines strength.
> Wat's Dyke likewise about the same was set,
> Between which two, both *Danes* and Britaines met,
> And trafficke still, but passing bounds by sleight,
> The one did take, the other prisner streight[a]."

Of the construction of this dyke, as to time or occasion, no authentic information is to be found. A similar dyke and rampart, not dissimilar in appearance, and somewhat alike in name, runs through the counties of Wilts and Somerset, called *Wans-dyke:* perhaps from the British word, *Gwantu*, to sever; or rather from *gwan*, a perforation. *Wats* may probably be a corruption from *gwaed*, blood with the genitive addition of *s*, to correspond with the Saxon adjunct, dyke, allusive to the sanguinary conflicts that happened in its vicinity.

But from this statement, it seems Wat's dyke, was a subsequent work to the more extended one of Offa; and the poet probably had some foundation from historic document, for ascribing the undertaking to the Danes. On the hostile appearance of these northern marauders into the marches of Wales, the inhabitants would naturally convert the great rampart, and foss of Clawdd Offa into an entrenched line of defence, against their further irruptions: and as the latter might be apt to make repulsive incursions, the former would be induced to erect a counter barrier. The feasibility of this opinion is the more apparent, from a compact of mutual forbearance, for the sake of a market, having subsisted between the adverse parties.

The

[a] Churchyard's Worthiness of Wales," originally printed in the year 1587; and reprinted by Thomas Evans in the Strand, London, 1776, p. 104.

The innovation, occasioned by the extension of the Saxon boundary, greatly narrowed the division of North Wales, called Powysland, and superinduced the necessity of removing the seat of its government from Pengwerne, the present Shrewsbury, to Mathraval, near Meifod in Montgomeryshire. But the British princes long and strenuously contended for the favourite possessions of their ancestors, so unjustly alienated; nor did they yield the boon of contention, till the politic and the powerful Edgar had reduced the petty kingdoms of the Heptarchy, under one sovereignty.

From the contiguity of the district, denominated Powysland, it usually suffered first, and most severely from the inroads of their usurping neighbours; but the interior and more remote parts were not exempt from their retaliating ravages. In the first year after Egbert had ascended the throne of Wessex, he entered North Wales with a formidable army, devastated the country as far as the foot of the Snowdonian mountains, and in his way seized upon the seigniory of *Rhyvonioc* in Denbighland*.

The *Danes* having began to infest the coasts of Wales, the Welsh solicited and obtained the aid of those adventurers, to repel and annoy their inveterate and hereditary enemies, the Saxons. For this impolitic measure they suffered severely. Highly incensed, that the new northern hordes should receive any succour from the inhabitants of Britain, Egbert besieged and took Caer Lleon Ddyfrdwy, or Chester, then the capital of Venedotia; and at the same time issued a proclamation commanding all persons, exempting neither sex, nor age, of Welsh extraction, to depart from his kingdom, within six months, upon pain of death. And, to add injury to insult, he enacted a law, equally ferocious in its principle, as unavailing in its effect, that every Welshman transgressing the limits of Offa's dyke, or that might be taken on the English borders should forfeit his life for such offence†. So unavailing indeed was the

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 318.

† Speed's Chronicle, p. 24.

the barrier, and so inefficient the law, that Harold was sent in the time of Edward the confessor, with a formidable army, to repel the incursions, and chastise the insolence of the Welsh. But after an ineffectual attempt to annihilate their power, the monarch had recurrence to the old policy of nominal coercion. A law was enacted that every Welshman, who should be found armed, with any kind of weapon, on the eastern side of Clawdd Offa, should be subject to have his right hand cut off by the king's officers.

At this period it was, according to the English historians, who appear to have implicitly copied each other, without a due examination of authorities, from William of Malmesbury to Leland, and from the time of Leland to the present, that he promulgated an edict, little consonant with the hatred he entertained with respect to Cambria; for the imposition of a novel and singular kind of *tribute* on the Welsh, exacting from their princes, instead of the acknowledgment previously paid in bullion, or money, an annual present of *three hundred wolves heads:* which occasioned such an eager pursuit and effectual caption of these animals, that their numbers were rapidly diminished, and the whole country delivered from the ravages of those ferocious animals*. The received opinion of that monarch's having, with a view to the extirpation of the noxious pest, commuted the punishments for certain crimes into an acceptance from the convicted parties, of a given number of *wolves tongues*†, according to the enormity of the offence, is far more admissible, both from the character of Edgar and the general tenour and policy of his government.

The scheme however, proved abortive, for centuries after, this ferine genus of quadrupeds increased to such an alarming degree, that a mandate was issued by king Edward the first, A. D. 1281, for their destruction in the counties of Gloucester, Worcester,

* Will. Malmsburiensis, Lib. II. c. 8, Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 398.

† Henry's History of Great Britain, Vol. III. p. 105.

Worcester, Hereford, Salop, and Stafford*. Driven from those haunts, they would naturally fly to less inhabited countries, so that probably at a period long subsequent, they prowled over the wilds of Wales: and they are said to have infested Ireland, so late as the year 1710†.

On the death of Roderic mawr, his eldest son Anarawd, agreeable to the threefold partition of the kingdom, made by the father, who had succeeded to the sovereignty of *all* Wales, ascended the throne of Gwynedd. In the early part of this prince's reign an opportunity occurred, of affording the inhabitants of Stratelwyd and Cambria, vexatiously harrassed by the incursions of Scots, Saxons, and Danes, similar protection to what his ancestors had experienced from their countrymen in Armorica. Having lost prince Constantine, and unable longer effectually to resist the re-iterated efforts of so many assailants, they applied to Anarawd for an asylum within his dominions. This was granted upon the usual condition of tenure in those sanguinary times; that they should obtain and preserve their settlement by the *sword*. Having acceded to the terms, they entered Wales under the conduct of their leader Hobart; and stimulated both by resentment and interest, valour urged them to victory; and they soon dispossessed the Saxons of the country, situated between the rivers Conwy and Dee.

Of this territory these northern Britons for some time remained in quiet possession. But Eadred, duke of Mercia, intolerant on account of the ignominious ejection, resolved to recover the country he had so suddenly and so easily lost. The former, apprised of his intention, removed their cattle, and other moveable effects, beyond the Conwy. With a view of totally ridding his principality of an hereditary and inexorable enemy, Anarawd hastened to the support of his allies; on which occasion he evinced a spirit, and displayed a promptitude

* Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. I. part 2d.

† Smith's Hist. of Cork. Vol. II. p. 226.

tude, suitable to the importance of the occasion. Having encamped with his army at a place called *Cymryd*, near Conwy, he waited the attack of the invading army, where, though greatly inferior to the assailants, in point of numbers, by his own personal prowess, and the determined bravery of his troops, he obtained a complete victory*. Following up their successes with determined activity, the Saxons were driven back with great loss into Mercia; and by a most unaccountable policy, the northern Britons were permitted to form an independent state, in part of the reconquered country. This territory included between the rivers Conwy and Dee, and extending from the town of Conwy to Chester, had been by the Romans, discriminated by the appellation of *Tegenia; Englefield*, by the English, and *Tegeingle* by the Welsh. The new proprietors, from a portion of it being situated on the banks of the river Clwyd, gave it the name of *Ystrad Clwyd*†.

During the increase of Danish inroads, and their repeated successes over the Saxons, Denbighland experienced no troubles from external enemies, and indeed the circumstances of the English, being fully employed in attending to their own safety, permitted the Welsh in general, to enjoy a season of unusual tranquillity.

The Norman period commenced with the system of subjugating a country, by previously parcelling it out, as though fairly ceded by pre-existing treaties; and then granting the same to be held *in capite* of the crown, by various military adventurers, who thus became entitled to the lands, they should acquire

* This battle denominated *Gwaed Cymryd Conwy*, from the place where it was fought, the prince distinguished by the appellation of *Dial Rodri*, expressive of the retaliation he had here made, for his father's death; and as an acknowledgment of the hand of Providence in his behalf, he bestowed considerable lands, with several privileges and immunities, on the collegiate churches of Clynnoc vawr, and Bangor in Arfon*.

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 38.

† Welsh Chronicle, Humphrey Llwyd's Brev. p. 69.

acquire by negotiation, or force; as well as the plunder they might obtain from the oppressed inhabitants. This plan was vigorously pursued in the times subsequent to the conquest, viz. in the succeeding reigns of William Rufus, Henry the first, Stephen, Henry the second, Richard the first, and John; but especially during the brilliant career of that warlike sovereign, Henry the third.

But it was reserved for the first Edward, to effectually sap the root of British independence, and by the principle of divide et impera, eventually to reduce under the English yoke, the whole principality. Having accomplished this grand scheme, he proceeded to reward and remunerate those, who had particularly assisted him in its execution. This he did, not out of the public treasury, for that had already been nearly exhausted by the French wars, and protracted necine warfare, occasioned by the tenacity of the Welsh; but by the confiscatory aid of other peoples property; bestowing towns and seigniories in the interior of the country, on several of the English nobility.

On this occasion Bromfield and Chirk, included in the territory, called *Dinas Bran*, came into possession of two English lords in a singular manner, and under circumstances of peculiar cruelty. Emma, widow of Gryffydd ap Madoc, having a disagreement with her husband's relatives, respecting the education of her sons, obtained possession of the eldest two*, and delivered

* Mr. Pennant observes, historians have been mistaken, in supposing, the children so dispatched, were the eldest two of Gryffydd; inferring from a manuscript in the Sebright collection, that as their signatures were affixed to the mother's settlement, and afterwards to a renewal and confirmation of the same, they probably had arrived at manhood, previous to their father's death, which happened in 1270. And from another manuscript account he concludes the infants, who were murdered must have been "the sons of Madoc," eldest son of Gryffydd*; although in other parts of the narration†,

* Tours in Wales, Vol. I. p. 230.

† Vol. III. Appendix, p. 294.

he

delivered them up as *wards*, to Edward the first: the one, heir to Bromfield and Yale, and the other to Chirk and Nantheudwy. Madoc, with his inheritance, the king delivered to the custody of John, earl Warren, and Llewelyn, with his patrimony, to Roger Mortimer, third son of Ralph, lord Mortimer of Wigmore. These noblemen possessed of the estates, quickly contrived, as a preliminary step to their own succession, to disencumber themselves of the charge; and conspiring together for the purpose, they caused the unoffending youths to be drowned in the river Dee. This barbarity of the guardians, so far from meeting condign punishment, as a foul and enormous crime, received the approbation of their royal master; who rewarded them with the estates of the murdered children. Warren had bestowed upon him Bromfield and Yale, by a grant dated at Rhuyddlan, October 27, 1281*; and Mortimer, Chirk, and Nantheudwy, with the exception in the former case, that the king reserved to himself the castle of Hope, with the annexed lands. In the family of the Warrens the lordship continued till 1347, whan it devolved to the Fitzalans, earls of Arundel, with whom it rested for three generations: after witnessing various possessors, it at length descended by escheature to the crown. The lordship of Chirk and Nantheudwy, continued but a short time in the family of Mortimer, his grandson, John, having sold to Richard Fitzalan, earl of Arundel; from which period it descended in a similar manner with Bromfield and Yale.

Reginald Grey, second son to lord Grey, of Wilton, obtained a grant of Ruthin lordship; as did Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, that of Denbigh†. This latter nobleman married

he follows the statement, here extracted from Wynne's History of Wales.

* Ayloff's Rotuli Wallie, 81.

† On taking possession of the seigniory, among other conciliatory concessions, he granted his vassals permission, to kill all manner of wild animals except in certain restricted parts, reserved for his own amusement. These privileges

the daughter and sole heiress of William Longspear, earl of Salisbury, by whom he had issue two sons, Edmund and John, and a daughter named Alicia. She became the wife of Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, who, in her own right acquired the earldoms of Lincoln and Sarum, the baronies of Denbigh Halton, and Pomfret with the constableship of Chester castle. On his attainder, Edward the second gave the seigniory of Denbigh to his favourite Despenser, Hugh, earl of Winchester. At whose death, it again fell to the crown. Edward the third granted it with several other lordships to another unfortunate minion, Roger Mortimer, earl of March. This liberal, or rather profuse donation is said to have been in consequence of a promise, made to that nobleman, while attending the king's mother in France; Edward having made a solemn declaration, if ever he should come into possession of the crown, he, would remunerate the said earl by a present of lands, to the annual value of one thousand pounds. Mortimer, however, in a few years after was attainted of high treason, when the lordship in question was transferred by royal grant to William Montacute, earl of Salisbury: but was quickly restored to the family of Mortimer; where it remained till the whole possessions of the earl of March, were conveyed by marriage to the house of York: Richard, duke of York having married the sole daughter and heiress of the Mortimers. Hence, by hereditary right, it came into possession of the crown, where it was vested in the time of Elizabeth, who in the sixth year of her reign, conferred it on her particular favourite, Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, who on the occasion was created baron Denbigh. On his attainder the title and seigniory reverted to the crown, where it continued till the year 1696; when William the third issued a patent, under the great seal, to William, earl of Portland.

privileges, however, appear to have been considerably abridged by succeeding lords, for in the reign of Henry the sixth, the names of five parks are mentioned in the Sebright manuscripts, viz. Moylewike, Caresnodooke, Kyfford, Bagh, and Posey; the rangership of which that monarch bestowed on Owen Tudor.

Portland, for holding the lordships of Denbigh, Bromfield, and Yale; but was quickly foiled in this attempt at unconstitutional alienation.

The Welsh landholders, well aware how such a sweeping grant would affect their own interests, encroach upon the liberty, as well as property of the subject, and form a dangerous precedent for future, and more extensive illegal transfers, applied to their representatives, for the disclosure of their grievances before Parliament; which, after due consideration of the subject, resolved, nemine contradicente, that a petition drawn up, and signed by the whole house should be presented to his Majesty, earnestly, requesting him to recall his grant of the above lordships to the said earl of Portland: which was accordingly done in the form and manner following:

"May it please your most excellent majesty, we, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the knights, citizens, and burgesses in parliament assembled; humbly lay before your majesty, That whereas there is a grant passing to William Earl of Portland, and his heirs, of the manors of Denbigh, Bromfield, and Yale, and divers other lands in the principality of Wales, together with several estates of inheritance, enjoyed by many of your majesty's subjects by virtue of antient grants from the crown:

That the said manors, with the large and extensive royalties, powers, and jurisdictions to the same belonging, are of great concern to your majesty and the crown of this realm: and that the same have been usually annexed to the principality of Wales, and settled on the princes of Wales for their support: and that a great number of your majesty's subjects, in those parts, hold their estates by royal tenure, under great and valuable compositions, rents, royal payments, and services to the crown and prince of Wales; and have by such tenure great dependence on yonr majesty and the crown of England; and have enjoyed great privileges and advantages with their estates, under such tenure.

We therefore most humbly beseech your majesty to put a stop

to the passing this grant to the Earl of Portland, of the said manors and lands; and that the same may not be disposed from the crown, but by consent of parliament: for that such grant, is in diminution of the honour and interest of the crown, by placing in a subject, such large and extensive royalties, powers, and jurisdictions, which ought only to be in the crown; and will sever that dependence, which so great a number of your Majesty's subjects in those parts, have on your Majesty and the crown, by reason of their tenure; and may be to their great oppression in those rights which they have purchased, and hitherto enjoyed with their estates: and also on occasion of great vexation to many of your Majesty's subjects, who have long had the absolute inheritance of several lands (comprehended in the said grant to the Earl of Portland), by antient grants from the crown.

HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I have a kindness for my Lord Portland, which he has deserved of me, by long and faithful services; but I should not have given him these lands, if I had imagined the House of Commons could have been concerned; I will therefore recall the grant, and find some other way of shewing my favour to him."*

The lordship of Denbigh, together with the *forests*, as they are legally deemed, of Bromfield and Yale, still form a part of the landed possessions belonging to the Crown.†

The lordship of Ruthin continued in possession of the Grey family, till the reign of Henry the seventh, when it was for some valuable consideration, conveyed to the King, by George Grey, earl of Kent and baron Ruthin. After which it appears to have been in possession of the earls of Warwick, and subsequently constituted part of the estates belonging to the Middletons

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 303.

† Observations on the landed Revenue of the Crown, p. 114. and 122.

Middletons, of Chirk castle, in this county. On the failure of the Ruthinean branch of the family, by Sir William Myddleton dying unmarried, January 5, 1717-1718, the baronetcy became extinct, but the seigniory descended with the entailed estate to Robert Myddleton, recorder of Shrewsbury, the eldest son of Richard Myddleton, of Llysfasi, and third son of Sir Thomas Myddleton, who distinguished himself during the civil war in the Parliamentarian cause*. Robert leaving no issue, the estates devolved on his brother John; who was succeeded by his son Richard, father of the late Richard, who left three daughters co-heiresses, two of whom are married, one to Robert Biddulph, Esq. who on the occasion took the name of Myddleton, in addition to his own; and another to the hon. Frederick West.

The barony of Ruthin, continued in the family of Grey, till the demise of Charles Grey, eighth earl of Kent, 1625, when it descended to his sole daughter and heiress, Susan, who married Sir Michael Longueville, and had by him a son, Charles, to whom after long disputes, respecting his right to the barony, it was decreed in his favour, 1640, and he consequently became the twelfth Lord Grey of Ruthin. He dying in 1643, without issue male, the honour passed with his sole daughter, by marriage, to *Sir Henry Yelverton*, grandson of Sir Henry, attorney general, and afterwards an eminent judge, in the reign of James the first. From this family the title came to the *Talbots; Henry Talbot*, who succeeded his grandfather, Henry Talbot, earl of Sussex, as eighteenth *Lord Grey of Ruthin*, April 22, 1799, afterwards took the name of *Yelverton*†.

After the celebrated tripartition of his kingdom by *Roderic-mawr* into separate states, which, during his life-time, were committed to the protection of three prefects, or lieutenants, subject to his controul, and by will decreed after his decease, that they should be considered as three principalities, to be under the distinct domination of his three heirs, who were conse-

* Kimber's Baronetage, Vol. II. p. 462. Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 108.

† Biographical Peerage of the empire of Great Britain, Vol. II. p. 79-80.

quently reckoned, "*Y tri Tywysog taleithiog*,"* or the three-diademed princes; this district was included in the division, assigned to the eldest son.

By this partition-ordinance, Anarawd, the eldest, had seizin of Gwynedd, or North Wales; Cadel, the second, Deheubarth, or south Wales; and Merfyn, the third, Powysland. But to the first, as lineal descendant of the Cynethian line of princes, he conferred a distinguishing superiority over the other two, appointing him, his heirs and successors, to possess exclusively the discriminating title of *Brenhin Cymru oll*, or Sovereign of Wales. In acknowledgment of this sovereignty, the younger branches, their heirs, and successors, were injoined to pay to the king of Aberffraw, or prince of Gwynedd, a rated annual sum, as a mark of their homage and fealty. And also, that the former should be answerable for the *Teyrnged*, or ancient royal tribute, due by the constitutions of Dunwallo Molmutius, for the whole of Cambria, to the imperial crown of London.†

Mr. Pennant was mistaken in placing great part of *Denbigh-land* within the limits of the principality of Powys, for it appears, that most of the country, constituting the present Denbighshire, was comprehended in the superior division of Gwynedd; for it is described, as bounded on the north and west sides by the Irish sea, from the river Dee at Basingwerk to Aberdyfi, in Merionethshire, on the south-west by the river Dyfi, which partially separated it from South Wales; and on the south and east, by a mountain, river, or local discriminating line, till it again found a boundary on the banks of the Dee.

Gwynedd was again further subdivided into four districts, viz. Môn, Arfôn, Meirion, and Y Perfeddwlad.

Y PERFEDDWLAD,

* Mona Antiqua, p. 173.

† These tributes appear to have been paid in the following manner, viz. the Kings of North Wales, were to raise annually sixty three pounds in money, for the crown of London; the princes of Powys for the former, four tons of flour; and the princes of South Wales, four tons of honey‡.

‡ Vaughan's British Antiq. revived.

Y PERFEDDWLAD, interpreted the middle, or inland country, contained five Cantrefs, comprising thirteen comots, viz.

Rhyfoniog, that included the comots of Uwchaled and Isaled.

Ystrad, Hiraethoc, and Cynmeirch.

Rhos, Uwchdulas, Isdulas, and Creuddyn, which latter is included in the present Caernarvonshire.

Dyffryn Clwyd, Coleigian, Llannarch, and Dogfeilyn.

Teygengle, Cynsyllt, Prestatyn, and Rhuddlan. This last cantref forms part of the present county of Flint.

On the extinction of Welsh independence, the ancient landmarks were in many instances removed, the line of demarcation materially altered, and the divisions of the country for the purposes of justice, adapted to a system of partition, and distinction, prevailing in the paramount kingdom. But for a considerable time subsequent to the conquest, Wales was not regularly divided, nor equally governed. Some parts of the conqueror's newly acquired territory, were municipally separated into shires; of which at the inquest, made in the reign of Henry the eighth, there were found nine, including Monmouth. Other portions of the principality were legally no *shire grounds*, on which account the laws of England were not admitted as current there; "because all the ordinary ministers and executioners of those laws, or persons vested with vicountiel jurisdiction, are the officers of *particular* counties, as sheriffs, coroners, escheators, &c." The districts, exempt therefore from the force of English jurisprudence, in which Denbighland was comprised, were governed by their own ancient laws, and directed by the usages and customs of their country. In this part of it, the constitutions of Hywell Dda, appear to have been exclusively prevalent, and the inhabitants were not liable to the *mises*,* payable

* *Mises*, were certain sums of money, paid by instalments, in acknowledgement, or relief, on the investiture of every new prince. These were granted, and the ratio fixed, in the two great courts, constituted for the provinces of North and South Wales, the Chancery and Exchequer, '*nomine recognitionis*

by those of the more strictly incorporated circuits, till the time of Henry the eighth. That politic monarch, perceiving the advantages likely to arise from a closer union of his dominions, meditated and put in execution, a plan for the effectual and complete annexation of the Principality to the realm of England. By a statute, passed in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, it was enacted, that the laws of England should wholly and to the utmost extent, be in force through Wales, and that all laws, customs, and tenures, incompatible therewith, should be thenceforth abolished, and for ever abrogated. By the same act, the lands previously in possession of various exclusive privileges and immunities, were formed into four new and additional counties, viz. *Radnor, Brecknock, Montgomery, and Denbigh*, and these with the eight ancient shires,* were by that and an explanatory statute in the following Session, for the better administration of justice, subdivided into cantrefs, or hundreds, in a similar manner to the English counties. At this period the circuits of the justices in Eyre were altered, when Denbighshire was conjoined with Montgomery and Flint, as a conventus juridicus, under the authority of the chief justice of Chester.†

Though

recognitionis ad primum adventum principis.' The people submitted to this relief, for the permission, that they might be governed, to a certain extent, by their own laws, to use their ancient customs, and have a general indemnification for all past errors, and offences fineable, or punishable, by the prince. See Dodridge's Historical Account, p. 35. It was originally paid in cattle and corn, but subsequent to the conquest changed into money. The sum then amounted to five thousand pounds, and was thrice paid in the time of James the first, viz, on his accession to the crown and on the several creations of his sons, Henry and Charles, princes of Wales §

† On this occasion, it appears, the seats of the two great courts were also changed, being moved from Caernarvon and Caermarthen, to Denbigh and Brecknock.

§ Monmouthshire also, which had previously been a shire of Wales, was, by a clause in this act, alienated and incorporated with the English counties.

Though the varying extent and limits of the principality, from this period became defined, and settled within the present limits, yet this did not perfectly cement the two governments, nor completely incorporate the severed regions. Some latent power still remained in the intermediate district, the exercise of which had, in exigencies, been permitted, and consequent abuses shamefully connived at, for political and weighty considerations. On complaint being made of grievances, occasioned by the influence of this hybrid amphibiological authority, and inquiry being made into the subject, the jurisdiction of the court, instead of being abolished under an exprobatory statute, was, contrary to expectation, confirmed by an act, passed in the thirty-fourth year of the same reign. This measure was deemed expedient from a further extension and explanation of the laws, which took place at that time, relative to Wales.

From the indefinite meaning, attached to the term *Marches* so late as the reign of James the first, an argument arose as to their extent and the validity of the decisions arising out of them. To a question, put upon the subject, why the word Marches should have been inserted in the statute, if it had no defined import, an answer stated, that the phrase "dominion and principality of Wales," was not sufficiently comprehensive, as it could only be interpreted, to allude to the eight *ancient* counties, excluding the four new ones of Brecknock, Radnor, Montgomery, and Denbigh. In any act therefore, affecting the principality, the addition to Wales, of the words and *the marches thereof*; was essential for including the whole. The courts of presidency and controul were not finally dissolved till the time of William the third, and in the preamble to the act for that purpose, they are represented as having been an *intolerable burthen to the subject.**

Denbighshire is bounded on the north by the Irish sea; on the north-east by Flintshire, from which county it is partially separated on the east by the river Dee; on the south-east by Shropshire,

* 1. William and Mary, Stat. i. c. 27.

Shropshire, on the south by Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire, and on the west, the river Conwy, from its source to the sea, forms a natural and reciprocal boundary, between this and Caernarvonshire, except the hundred of Creuddyn, with a small territory originally annexed to the abbey of Maenan, and still belonging to the latter county. The shape is very irregular, and the length and breadth consequently various. Its extent from north-west to south-west, is stated at forty-eight miles; its extreme breadth, at twenty; but in some parts it narrows to seven or eight; and the circumference is about one hundred and seventy. The area contained within these limits has been computed to comprise six hundred and seventy square miles.

The county is sub-divided into six cantrefs, or hundreds, viz. Isdulas, Isaled, Ruthin, Yale, Bromfield, and Chirk, these include one borough; *Denbigh*, with five other market towns, viz. *Ruthin*, *Wrexham*, *Holt*, *Llangollen*, and *Llanrwst*, and fifty-seven parishes.

The population amounted, by the returns made to parliament under the act of the forty-first of his present majesty, to 60,352 persons, inhabiting 12,621 houses; of whom 9,960 were represented as employed in various trades and manufactures, and 21,104 occupied in the labours of agriculture. This number, from the improvements progressively making, is probably increased, since the period when this statement was delivered in.

The surface of this county is highly diversified, and affords a great variety of contrasted scenery. The western part is rather mountainous, abounding with hills, interspersed among which, are several small lakes, whence issue numerous meandering streams. The northern part wears nearly similar features, except that from Abergeley, along the sea coast, the country becomes depressed and gradually sinks into the extensive plain of Morfa Rhyddlan. This district included in the hundred of Isdulas, may now be considered nearly in the same comparative view, as it appeared to the observant Leland who, after defining the bounds

bounds of 'Hughe Aleth,' adds, "This commote is the worst parte of all Denbighland, and most baren."*

From the embochure of the Clwyd, nearly to its source a peculiarly fine tract of country accompanies both banks of that river, constituting the far-famed *vale of Clwyd.*—Greater part is in Denbighshire, passing the hundreds of Isaled and Ruthin, stretching in length, more than twenty miles, and from about five to seven in breadth. Inclosed by mountains whose brown and barren summits, form a fine contrast to the verdant meads and luxuriant fields, which as far as the eye can ken, gratify the enraptured sight and fill the mind with the pleasing ideas of fertility, industry, and plenty. Towns, villages, and seats, thickly studded over the surface, tend still more to enliven the cheering scene, and every object seems to afford an additional smile in the complexion of this enchanting vale.

"Now to the vale, of worthie Dyffrin Cloyd,
My muse must passe, a soyle most ritch and gay:
This noble seate, that never none anoy'd,
That sawe the same, and rode or went that way:
The vewe thereof, so much contents the mynde,
The ayre therein, so wholesome and so kynd:
The beautie such, the breadth and length likewise,
Makes glad the hart, and pleaseth each man's eyes.

This vale doth reache, so far in vewe of man,
As he farre of, may see the seas in deede:
And who a while, for pleasure travayle can
Throughout this vale, and thereof take good heede,
He shall delight, to see a soyle so fine,
For ground and grasse, a passing plot devine.
And if the troth, thereof a man may tell,
This vale alone doth all the rest excell.

As it belowe, a wondrous beautie showes,
The hills above, doth grace it trebble fold:
On every side, as farre as valley goes,
A border bigge, of hilles ye shall behold:

They

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 55.

ceepe the vale in such a quiet sort,
irds and beasts, for succour there resort;
locks of foule, and heards of beast sometyme,
es there from storme, when tempests are in pryme.

rivers run, amid the bottome heere,
e, and Cloyd, Clanweddock, (loe) the third;
oyse of streames, in summer morning cleere,
e and charme, and chaunt of every bird
eth there, a second heaven is:
ish sound, more like an earthly blis:
usick sweete, that through our eares shall creepe,
ecret arte, and lull a man a sleepe."*

greater portion, however, of these extensive divisions of y, do not assume the same imposing aspect, nor the wear a similar inviting appearance. The central of Isaled hundred, consists of bleak and barren hills, and th and south-west, comprises a large tract of morassy oid of wood, and principally consisting of sterile grass lands, depastured by a stunted race of breeding cat- ne of these lands, notwithstanding, afford an abundant sup- fuel for the inhabitants, from the numerous beds of peat imbedded under the surface of the soil. Ruthin, on the southern side, partakes of a similar mountain character, to about the middle part of the former hundred, and is nearly equal in point of sterility.

Yale, or Yal, comprises a small mountainous tract, overlooking Dyffryn Clwyd, and chiefly very high lands, compared with the adjacent district; so much so, as to have occasioned the remark, that though several rivulets issue from it, yet none run into it, from any other district. Owing to this elevated situation, the country is bleak, and the western parts, including a portion of the Ruabon hills, barren; being chiefly covered with heath and ling. These, which extend into the next hundred

* Worthies of Wales, p. 120.

dred afford an excellent cover for *grous*, that in the shooting season furnish a delightful though toilsome sport, for the gentry resident in the vicinity. The more verdant hills, are well stored with sheep, goats, and black cattle, and furnish also an excellent breed of stout, hardy, and useful horses. Several small tracts, however, interspersed amidst the mountainous parts, are watered by cheering streams, and relieve the eye from the tedium of beholding

"Hard duskie rocks, all covered ore full dim,"

and the dreary appearance of desart moors. These abound with fertile meads, and some lands produce much corn; particularly in what is termed the valley of Yale.

Bromfield, the most important part of this county, in population and wealth, was anciently denominated *Maelor Cymreig*, or Welsh Maelor, to distinguish it from another division of the same territory, in Flintshire, called *Maelor Saesneg*, or English Maelor. This hundred included between the rivers Alun and Dee, on the western side, shares in the mountainous character of its neighbour Yale. But the greater part is a fertile pleasant country, highly productive, abounding in coal, lead, iron, and various useful lapideous substances; mines and quarries of which are worked in divers places.

Chirk, formerly denominated *Gwayn*, or Gwain, is almost wholly a hilly country, having in it two conspicuous mountains, *Cader Ferwyn* and *Y Syllattyn*. The river Ceiriog, with its accompanying valley, nearly divides the upper part in a diagonal line; and the southern boundary is naturally marked by the rivers Rhaiadr and Tanad: the former, about midway on the line, becoming confluent with the latter.

From the irregularity of the surface, and the variation in the soils, a considerable difference of *climate* is perceivable in this county. The air on the hills is sharp, the westerly breezes being in winter considerably cooled and deprived of their softness, by the snow-clad heights of Snowdonia; so that

'balmy zephyrs,' is here inapplicable to winds, blowing from that point of the compass. But if they proceed from the north and east, it may be feelingly said

> "Where if wind blowe, ye shall foul weather find,
> And think you feel the bitter blasts full brim."

Yet the keeness of the air, with the general dryness of the ground, tend greatly to the salutariness of the hardy mountaineers.

The atmosphere in the vales, more charged with vapours and less exposed to the evaporating power of winds, is consequently milder, and more congenial with some constitutions. But of Dyffren Clwyd, it has been observed, that though defended from the chilling storm by the mountain barriers, which, like walls, protect it on the east and west; yet, open to the ocean, and subject to the serenating boreal blasts* issuing from the north, it partakes in a great degree, of the sharpness of the former and the mildness of the latter, circumstances that have proverbially rendered this vale celebrated for its salubrity. The complexion of the inhabitants is bright, their countenance in general cheerful, and from enjoying sound constitutions, inherited from a long transmitted healthy stock, breathing constantly a wholesome air, and chiefly occupied in the labours of the field, they display a vivacity in youth, and a vigour in age, desirable, though not possessed, in less favoured situations: longevity, therefore ceases to be remarkable, because it is here, only a common occurrence.

The principal RIVERS of this county are the *Clwyd*, the *Conwy* and the *Dee*. The two latter, forming its extreme bounds, may be considered as coparcenary rivers, reciprocally belonging to this, and the adjacent counties. The Clwyd, therefore, can only be considered as the chief local river, and even this, not exclusively so; for before it disembogues to the ocean,

* "Boreæ serenanti."

ocean, it passes through part of Flintshire: so that except the portion of the Conwy from its mouth to near Llandoget, opposite Trefriew, Denbighshire can boast of no navigable river. And it is not a little singular for Wales, situated on the western coast of Britain, so cut by numerous creeks, inlets, and small bays, affording shelter for shipping, that this, though a maritime county, possesses not so much as one seaport, or tolerable haven. Numerous rivulets, forming tributary streams to the above named rivers, either originate here, or traverse parts of it.

The *Ceiriog* rising on the western side proceeds in an easterly direction, as a mountain torrent, till its confluence with the Dee in the vicinity of Chirk castle.

The *Alun* commences near Llandegla, flows northward, and making a most extraordinary circuitous route through Flintshire, almost encompasses the town of Mold; then turns suddenly to the southward, through Hopedale; and having passed the village of Gresford, re-enters this county, and joins the Dee, a little below the town of Holt. Like the sullen Mole in Surrey, this is described, as taking a subterraneous course hiding itself in several places by undermining the earth; which circumstance Churchyard quaintly thus describes.

> "The river runnes a myle-right under ground;
> And where it springs, the issue doth abound.
> And into Dee this water doth dissend,
> So loseth *name*, and therein makes an end."

The Ellesmere *canal* passes through the lower part of the county, but the navigation of this portion is not yet completed. A deficiency of water has greatly retarded the work, and occasioned a vast additional expence, which has operated as a dead weight upon the concern. The *Frood* branch has been long dry; some of the intended line remains unfinished, and a collateral cut has lately been extended from near Pont Cysyllte to the Dee, above Langollen; for the purpose of obtaining a supply of water: the original feeders, though vast reservoirs, having been found totally inadequate to furnish a sufficient

sufficient quantity, during the summer months. For effecting this, a weir has been thrown across the river, to raise the stream above the level of the canal; and at the termination of the cut, gates erected, for the admission, or rejection, of the water, according as the state of the navigation may require. This scheme, dictated by necessity, reflects great credit upon the projector; and had it been executed long before, would have been a saving of an immense sum to the proprietors.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS of this county have not received the merited attention*, for it is evident, from what has already been discovered, by partial inquiries, that much more valuable information would arise from a minuter investigation. Its mineralogy and phytology, would be interesting subjects for the scientific traveller and the result, doubtless of important utility to the provincial inhabitants, as well as community. Denbighshire cannot boast the towering heights of its alpine neighbour; but the rugged and mountainous features of Wales, are generally conspicuous, although frequently softened into beauty, by a considerable intermixture of diversified fertility.

MINERALOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, may be expected to make a much further progress in this district. Rich veins of *lead*, *iron*, and *coal* have been found in divers places, and mines of these valuable substances are opened in various places. Camden states, that lead has been found at a village called "*Mwyn glodh*†, so denominated from the lead mines in the vicinity. Those

* The editor by no means intends, under this general observation to reflect for a moment, or cast the smallest slight on the talents, or industry of the Welsh; for to the talents of many, and their spirited and patriotic application of them, he can bear ample testimony, both from personal knowledge, and literary communications. And as far as respects this county, it is but a just tribute, to mention with high consideration *J. W. Griffith* Esq. of *Garn*, near Denbigh. A gentleman who, amidst the active duties of social life, has found leisure to cultivate the valuable science of *Botany*, and has greatly added to the phytological elucidations of the principality.

† Whence the author of the Britannia obtained this term Glodh, is not palpable;

Those parts of Bromfield and Yale, abutting upon Flintshire, comprise a part of the mineral tract, which passes in a northerly direction through that county, to the estuary of the Dee. Southerly it enters this, below Mold, extends through the parishes of Llanferres, Llanarmon, and Llandegla, whence it branches off to Minera, and terminates at the Glisseg rocks in the vicinity of Langollen.

The matrix of the ore is principally *limestone*, except about the lower parts of the hills, where it traps into petrosilex. The veins about Minera lie in a gritty chest, and in some instances the ore is found in a blackish shale stone, and again in limestone at the Glisseg rocks, and the adjacent lands on both sides of the Dee.

The isolated calcareous rocks of Henllan north of Denbigh, and Coed Marchon in the neighbourhood of Ruthin, are known to contain lead; but the procuration of lime, for agricultural purposes, is considered much more profitable, or expedient, than adventures for subterraneous treasures.

The ridges of precipices, extending along the sea coast on the north western side of the county, are also productive of lead ore.

Iron Ore is dug on the Ruabon hills, and the adjacent parts of the country. On both sides the Berwyn chain of mountains; a link of which extends into the southern part of this county, iron is plentifully found, and appearances favour the supposition, that many of the hitherto unexplored sterile tracts, are exuberantly rich in this mineral of universal utility.

At *Bromba* in the vicinity of Wrexham, ore of a peculiarly excellent quality is obtained, and several smelting furnaces in

palpable; *mwyn*, or *mwn*, is a general term used to express any ore, but a particular kind is discriminated by an adjunct, as mwyn-aur, gold; mwyn-plwm, lead; both which are evidently derived from the Latin aurum and plumbum. Either the Britons anterior to the arrival of the Romans, were unacquainted with these metals, or the indigenous names are lost. Among that people *metallum* signified both ore and the metal extracted from it; *minera*, a word adopted in after ages probably came from the British mwyn.

this neighbourhood, and that of Pont Cyssyllte are worked with the most gratifying success.

Near the latter a mine of *sulphur* recently discovered, contains *iron pyrites* in large masses, which is used in many cases for dying black, and great quantities are conveyed by the canal to Chester, or Liverpool, and shipped for America.

Coal, so essential to the reduction of metallic substances, and the general comforts and convenience of man, is still more abundant; particularly in the eastern part of the county. Several pits are open at Acre-vyd, and Cefn, near Trevor; others between Ruabon and Wrexham; and more at Minera, Llandegla, &c. &c. The supply of this article is not only plentiful, but comparatively cheap, the general price being nine or ten shillings for twenty four hundred weight.

Slate, of a durable quality is to be found in several parts; but the principal quarries, at present worked, are in the southern part of the county; and were the means of conveyance, answerable to the demand, this species of property would be highly advantageous to the proprietors, and the community at large. The price is at this time twenty shillings per thousand, without any other distinction of size, than large and small together, except it being generally understood between the buyer and seller, that such a given quantity by *tale*, is sufficient to *cover twenty* two square yards of roofing.

Mr. Arthur Aikin, who looked with the observant eye of a naturalist over the country, furnishes a scientific view of this slaty tract; and speaking of the lofty hills, extending across the southern part of this county, on a line from Llangynnog in Montgomeryshire, to Bala in Merionethshire, observes, "The substance of which these mountains are composed is *primitive schistus*, that is, such as does not contain iron pyrites, or any remains or impressions of organized bodies, the position of the strata being, generally, nearly perpendicular to the plane of the horizon. The greater part of the schistus is in thick irregular laminæ, intersected in places with veins of quartz, and varies the least of all from a perpendicular position; the slates,

of

of which the chief quarries are in the mountains of Llangynnog, Cader-Ferwyn, and Syllatyn, are for the most part unmixed with quartz, and vary, often considerably from the perpendicular: the shivery schistus, or shale, abounding on the eastern descent of Trim-y-Sarn, and the southern boundary of Llangollen vale, is the most irregular in its position, frequently varying within the space of fifty yards, from perpendicular to parallel, contains no quartz, but a good deal of clay, especially where the strata are most disordered*."

Lime, which has greatly contributed to the melioration of the soil, is found in divers places. Calcareous strata, trapping with the schistose in the adjacency of Llangollen, traverse the county to the north, and north west, and grass in divers places, till they terminate in the limestone cliffs, near Llandrillo yn Rhos. In the vale of Egwist, in the vale of Clwyd, and to Penmaen Rhos, near Glyn Conwy, this valuable substance is abundantly found.

Free-stone and other silicious substances, desirable for building purposes, are to be obtained in various parts; but most frequently in the vicinity of the coal strata.

Among *plants* not of very general habitats, may be reckoned *Chara flexilis*, smooth Chara; *Veronica montana*, Mountain Speedwell; *Eriophorum polystachion*, Broad-leaved Cotton-grass; *Milium Lendigerum*, Panic millet grass; *Aira præcox*, Early Hair-grass; *Melica nutans*, Mountain Melic grass; *Poa rigida*, Hard meadow-grass; *Lithospermum purpuro-coeruleum*, Creeping Gromwell; *Campanula glomerata*, Clustered Bell-flower, and *C. hederacea*, Ivy-leafed Bell-flower; *Viola palustris*, Marsh violet; and *V. lutea*, yellow violet; *Verbascum lychnitis*, White Mullein; *Rhamnus catharticus*, Buckthorn; *Ribes grossularia* & *R. Uvacrispa*, Rough and smooth Gooseberry; *Gentiana amarella*, Autumnal Gentian; and *G. campestris*, Field Gentian; *Scandix odorata*, Sweet Cicely; *Convallaria majalis*, Lily of the valley; *Daphne laureola*, Spurge

* Journal of a Tour, p. 20.

Spurge laurel; *Adoxa moschatellina*, Tuberous Moschatell; *Andromeda polifolia*, Marsh Andromeda; *Saxifraga granulata*, White Saxifrage; *Spergula subulata*, Ciliated awl-shaped Spurrey; *Pyrus torminalis*, Wild Service Pear tree; *P. hybrida*, Bastard Mountain Ash; *Helleborus viridis*, Green Hellebore, or Christmas rose; *Teucrium chamædrys*, Wall Germander; *Mentha gentilis*, Bushy red mint; *Galeopsis versi color*, Large-flowered Hemp-nettle; *Thymus acinos*, Basil Thyme; *Antirrhinum minus*, Least Snapdragon; and *A. majus*, Great Snapdragon, *Lepidium latifolium*, Broad-leaved Pepper-wort; *Iberis nudicaulis*, Naked-stalked Candy-tuft; *Orobus tuberosus*, Heath-pea; *Trifolium glomeratum*, Round-headed Trefoil; *Hypericum hirsutum*, Hairy St. John's wort; *Gnaphalium rectum*, Upright wood Cudweed; *Inula Helenium*, Elecampane; *Serapias latifolia*, Common Helleborine; *Carex pendula*, Pendulous Seg; *C. Strigosa* Slender Seg; *Viscum album* Missletoe. To this list the investigating botanist, will probably be able to add a considerable number.

Of the AGRICULTURE of the county, it would be desirable to give a detailed account, for the improvements are highly creditable to the skill, spirit, and industry of the inhabitants. Denbighshire is reported to contain '410,000 acres, almost the whole of which is in a state of cultivation, comprising, according to computation, 150,000, of arable land, and 250,000 of pasturage.' This is perhaps too favourable a statement. There is yet, after the most laudable patriotic exertions, a considerable quantity of commonable and waste lands, or lands very little more productive than waste. Camden describes, "the western part of the shire, as somewhat barren; the middle, where it falls into the vale, exceeding fruitful; the eastern part next the vale, not so kindly a soil; but towards the Dee, much better. Towards the west, except by the sea side, where it is somewhat more fruitful, it is but thinly inhabited, and swells pretty much with bare and craggy hills; but the diligence, and industry of the husbandman hath long since begun to conquer the barrenness of the land, on the sides of these mountains, as well

well as in other places of Wales. For having pared off the surface of the earth, with a broad iron instrument for that purpose, in thin clods and turfs, they pile them up in heaps, and burn them to ashes: which being scattered on the lands, thus pared, does so enrich them, that it is scarce credible what quantities of rye they produce*." This custom deduced from the georgical hints of Roman writers, and judiciously reprobated in modern husbandry, is still retained in some parts, but is gradually yielding to a more rational and profitable system.

Denbighshire has long had its provincial *board* for encouraging the melioration of the soil, an *agricultural society* having been instituted some years since, in the vale of Clwyd. Another has been established for the district, fifteen miles round Wrexham, and both have been considerably aided through the co-operating effects, produced by sir *Watkin Williams Wynn, bart.*'s shew of cattle and sheep, with a distribution of prizes on the occasion, annually held at Wynn-stay.

The vale of Clwyd naturally rich, and greatly improved by art, is highly productive in the usual kinds of corn, and fattens numerous cattle and sheep. The lands in the vicinity of the Dee, afford pasturage for milch kine, while the dairy in the article of cheese, participates in the celebrity of the adjacent county of Chester. The elevated parts, though steril and exposed to a more ungenial aspect, furnish a very prolific nursery for replenishing the live stock of the more fertile districts: and cultivation is gradually extending up the sides of the hills. None, who have visited the vale of Clwyd, can refuse admitting the excellence of its general culture, or deny, that the landholders are not attentive to their interests, by encouraging a spirit of general improvement.

Mr. George Kay, a gentleman of Leith, who was deputed by the Board of Agriculture, to draw up a survey of the agricultural state of North Wales, appears to have overlooked, or much under-rated the improvements in this part of the island.

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 813.

"We lament, observes Mr. Pennant, that Mr. Kay did not see in any one of our six counties, a single custom that could be useful to others*. From the state of numbers of our farms, I suspect, that we had previously adopted many methods of agriculture from English counties, which must have occasioned the remark. I would fain pay that compliment to his candour. On the whole I fear, that the mission has passed most unprofitably to both *visitor* and *visité*. Nothing seems to have been learned by the one, and nothing taught by the other†."

Attention to the ROADS of this county has not kept equal pace with the multifarious progressive improvements. The public ones, particularly the mail roads, having been placed, by act of parliament, under the post-office surveyors, may perhaps have now a tolerable claim to exemption; but many of the cross roads are bad, and some parts of the county would be rendered far more valuable, were they favoured with vehicular accommodation.

The fact, previously stated, of this, though a maritime county, possessing no sea port, must necessarily preclude any remarks on its COMMERCE.

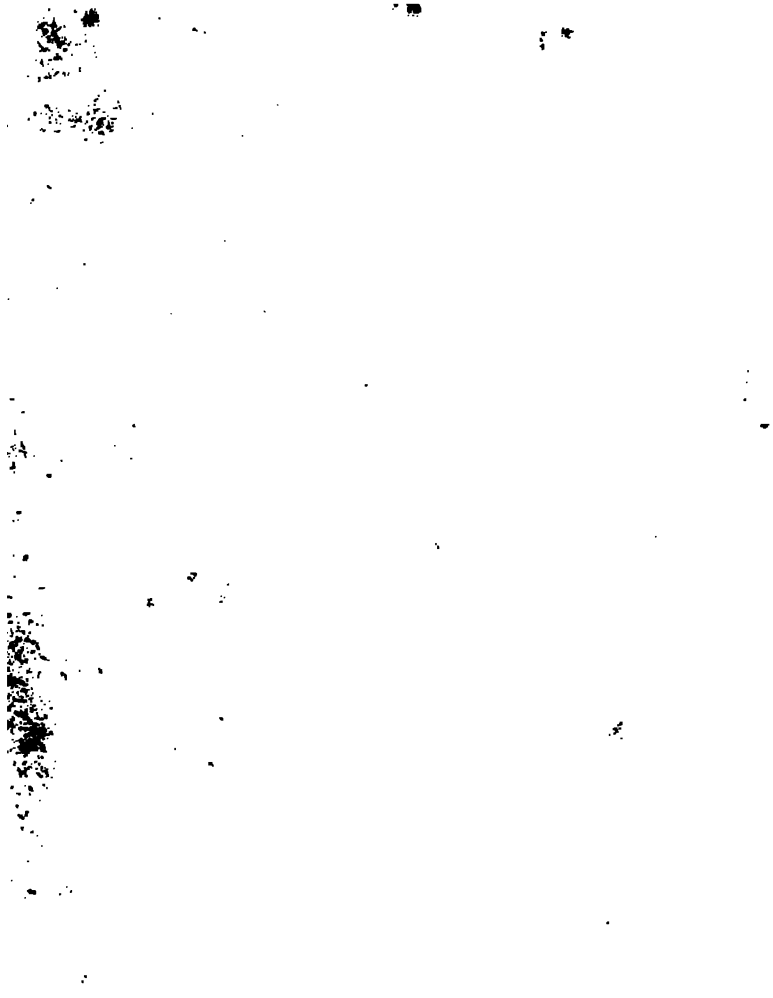
Of its MANUFACTURES coarse cloths, flannels made of country wool, and stockings, form the most considerable articles, some small quantity of iron is wrought, and the fabrication of harps employs many persons at Llanrwst.

For the purposes of civil administration, Denbighshire is placed in the Chester *circuit*; and for ecclesiastical discipline is ranked in the *province* of Canterbury, partly in the diocese of

* Hints for Improvements in North Wales, p. 40.

† History of the parishes of Whiteford and Holywell, p. 167.

It is a subject of regret, that so partial an account should have been promulgated, and an additional disappointment, that a far different and more valuable statistical description of so varied a country, has not yet been published. Had the view of its agriculture, drawn up for the Board, by the Rev. Mr. Davies made its appearance, the editor would have cheerfully availed himself of such information, to have counteracted the inaccuracies of former statements.



DENBIGH CASTLE,
North Wales.

of Bangor, and partly in that of St. Asaph, the deanry of Dyffryn Clwyd belonging to the former see.

The chief honorial distinctions, derivable from this county are few. The borough of Denbigh gives the title of earl to the noble family of *Fielding*, and Ruthin, baron to that of *Yelverton*.

It returns two members to parliament, one, as knight of the shire; and the other, as representative for the confederated towns of Denbigh, Ruthin, and Holt; and pays one part of the land tax.

DENBIGH.

The county town is situated nearly in the centre of Dyffryn Clwyd, on the side and foot of a steep hill, once forming a prominent point, in a tract of the country called Rhôs, whence its ancient British appellation of '*Castell Cled fryn yn Rhôs*, or the craggy hill in Rhos.

The only authentic accounts of this place, appear to synchronize with the foundation of its *castle*. On the death of Llewelyn, his brother David, considering himself the legal sovereign of North Wales, summoned the Welsh chieftains, as subjects, to meet him at *Dinbech**, the present Denbigh, for the purpose of holding a consultation on their common interests. Desirous of vindicating the injured rights of the country, he commenced hostilities against the English; and the result was his capture and imprisonment, together with the annihilation of Welsh independence. On this occasion Edward bestowed the lordship of Denbigh on *Henry Lacy*, earl of Lincoln, who, Leland observes was previously a great lord marcher in Ewisland. To secure his new acquisitions, he is said to have erected a castle, and converted the village near it into a walled town: perhaps he might have been the founder of both at the same period†.

* Dinbech means a small hill fortress.

† Leland states, " afore his tyme I cannot lerne that there was other toun

The above author mentions a circumstance conjunctively with this account of the fortress that seems to have escaped the notice of the generality of writers on English history, viz. that Edward the fourth was besieged in it, and a compact was entered into between the king and the Lancastrian party, by which the monarch was permitted to retreat, on signing conditions, that he should leave the realm, and never attempt to return. Dugdale states Denbigh, and several other strong places in Wales, to have been held a part of the year 1459, by Jasper Tudor, earl of Pembroke, in behalf of his weak half brother, *Henry the sixth;* but the whole of them were retaken by the Yorkists in the following year. In 1468, he is said to have returned, and having been reinforced by the junction of a large body of Welsh troops, burnt and pillaged the town; apparently meditating revenge, rather than conquest*. Whether, during the unhappy differences, subsisting between the *two roses*, at that period might have placed Edward in such a dilemma, or not, certain it is, that soon after, the reigning prince was constrained, to abdicate his throne, and quit the kingdom. But then the necessity is represented to have arisen out of the desperate state of his political affairs in general, and not from any specific compromise or capitulation with his adversaries†.

After the retreat of Charles the first from Chester, in September 1645, the king took refuge at Denbigh; and from that circumstance, a tower containing the rooms, occupied by his majesty, still retains the appellation of *Siambr y brenhin*, or the royal apartment. Although the parliamentarian forces under general Mytton, in the beginning of November, in the same year obtained a most important victory over the loyalists, commanded by sir William Vaughan in the vicinity; yet the castle

toun or castelle." Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 56. Yet from the pre-existing name of *Diubech*, a strong probability arises, that this hill was a strong hold, anterior to the grant made to Lacy.

* Carte's Hist. of England, Vol. II. p. 775.

† Henry's Hist. of England, Vol. IX. p. 210.

castle appears to have continued in possession of the latter, till the ensuing year; when it was attacked, and taken by general Mytton. And notwithstanding the siege commenced on July the sixteenth, such was the gallant defence made by the garrison, under the command of the governor, *colonel William Salusbury*, that its surrender was protracted till the third of November following; although the governor had received a written order, signed by the king, dated Newcastle, September the fourteenth, to relinquish all further resistance: and then it was delivered up, on the most honourable conditions. It is very remarkable, that after a general mandate had been issued by fallen majesty, in the month of June previous, for the yielding up to the Parliament all strongholds both in England, and Wales; the first it obtained possession of in North Wales, held out two months longer, than the last English castle, which had been defended for the royal cause. It was probably dismantled on changing possessors, and after the restoration of Charles the second, was blown up with gunpowder, and rendered completely untenable by any future enemy.

This fortress, by the accounts of historians, and the appearance of the present remains, must have been a superb structure, and from the strength of its position, and massy nature of the building, invulnerable, but to heavy artillery and irreducible, except in cases of treachery, or famine. The breaches in the walls, Mr. Grose observes, plainly shew how they were constructed. Two walls, occupying the extremities of the intended thickness, were first built in the ordinary manner, with a vacuity between them, into which was poured a mixture of hot mortar, and rough stones of all sizes, which on cooling consolidated into a mass, as hard as stone. This kind of building was called *grouting**.

This castle stands, on top of rocke most hye,
A mightie cragge, as hard as flint or steele:
A massie mount, whose stones so deepe doth lye,
That no device, may well the bottom feele.

The

* Antiquities.

The rock discends, beneath the auncient towne,
About the which, a stately wall goes downe,
With buyldings great and posternes to the same,
That goes through rocke, to give it greater fame.

I want good words, and reasons apt therefore
It selfe shall shewe, the substance of my tale:
But yet my pen, must tell here somewhat more,
Of castles praise, as I have spoke of vale,
A strength of state, ten tymes as strong as fayre,
Yet fayre and fine with dubble walles full thicke,
Like tarres trim, to take the open ayre,
Made of free-stone, and not of burned bricke:
No buylding there, but such as man might say,
The worke thereof, would last till judgement day.

The seate so sure, not subject to a hill,
Nor yet to myne, nor force of cannon blast:
Within that house, may people walke at will,
And stand full safe, till daunger all be past.
If cannon rorde, or barkt against the wall
Friends there may say, a figge for enemies all:
Five men within, may keepe out numbers greate,
(In furious sort) that shall approach that seate.

Who stands on rocke, and lookes right down alone,
Shall thinke belowe, a man is but a child:
I sought my selfe, from top to fling a stone
With fulle mayne force, and yet I was beguyld.
If such a height, the mightie rocke be than
The force nor sleight, nor stout attempt of man,
Can win the fort, if house be furnisht throw,
The troth whereof, let world be witnesse now.

It is great payne, from foote of rocke to clyme
To castle wall, and it is greater toyle
On rocke to goe, yea any step sometyme
Uprightly yet, without a faule or foyle.
And as this seate, and castle strongly stands
Past winning sure, with engin sword or hands;
So looks it ore, the countrey farre or neere,
And shines like torch, and lanterne of the sheere.

Wherefore

Wherefore Denbigh, thou beare away the prize,
Denbigh hath got, the garland of our daies:
Denbigh reapes fame, and lawde a thousand waies,
Denbigh my pen, unto the clowdes shall raise.
The castle there could I in order drawe,
I should surmount, now all that ere I sawe*.

This though a quaint, is probably an accurate statement, and as it contains a description by a person, who saw it about the middle of the sixteenth century, is not only curious for its language, but valuable for its details. Leland, who preceded the topographical poet, remarked, "The castelle is a very large thing, and hath many toures yn it. But the body of the worke was never finishid. The Gatehouse is a mervelus, strong and great peace of work, but the *fastigia* of it were never finischid. If they had beene it might have beene countid among the most memorable peaces of works yn England. It hath diverse wardes, and diverse portcolicies. On the front of the gate is set the image of Hen. Lacy erle of Lincoln in his stately long robes.—Sum say that the erle of Lincolne's son felle into castelle welle, and ther dyed: whereupon he never passid to finisch the castelle†.

The grand entrance is through a magnificent pointed archway, formerly flanked by two large octagonal towers, one of which is nearly demolished, and the other in a ruinous state. In an ornamented niche over the centre of the arch, is still remaining tolerably intire, the statue of the founder; and over a gateway, that stood on the left of this, it is said was another of his wife, Margaret, daughter of William Longespec, or Longspear, earl of Salisbury. The ruins cover the summit of the craggy hill, one side of which is boldly precipitous. The prospect through the broken arches, and frittering walls, is extensive, and peculiarly fine. The vale of Clwyd, for miles round, is presented to the view in all its rich variety, and luxuriant beauties, with the enchanting prospect terminated by a line of hills, from the rock of Disserth to Moel Fenlli.

The

* Worthines of Wales, p. 123.

† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 57.

The town of Denbigh, in point of situation, has by one writer been assimilated to Stirling, and by another to Edinburgh; but whoever has seen those places in North Britain, and had an opportunity of comparing them with this, though he may find some tracts of similiarity, yet the resemblance in neither case is particularly striking: to the former it certainly approximates nearest. Seated on a rocky eminence, the summit crowned with the ruinated castle, when viewed from a distance, assumes a most imposing aspect: and though the interior possesses little grandeur, yet its elevated site gives a commanding view of the surrounding country.

The place originally inclosed with walls, and fortified with one square and three round towers, that connected it with the castle, was nearly of an orbicular shape, and about a mile in circumference. The entrance was by two gates; one denominated the *Exchequer* gate, in which was held the royal and baronial courts; and the other the *Burgesses'* gate, in which affairs relative to municipal business were transacted. Leland observes, that numerous streets had subsisted within the walls; but that in his time, most of the houses were dilapidated, or down; and it could scarcely reckon *eighty householders.* What were the causes, which produced the decay of the original town, whether destructive fires, the scarcity of water, the inconvenience of carriage, or all these co-operating together, has not been ascertained. In one of these precincts, stands *St. Hilary's,* a chapel formerly belonging to the garrison, and now appropriated as a place of worship for the inhabitants of the town. A small distance from it, is the carcase or ruinated body of a church, a hundred and seventy feet in length, and seventy one broad, designed to have been separated into nave, ailes, &c. by two rows of ornamental columns. This structure, it appears, from a date on a foundation stone, was begun A. D. 1579, under the auspices of *Dudley, earl of Leicester;* who is stated to have desisted from prosecuting the work, by the disgust he entertained against the Welsh, for enmi-

ty

by incurred by his insufferable tyranny.* A sum is reported to have been subsequently collected for the completion of the plan, but that the Earl of Essex passing through the place, on his ill-fated expedition to Ireland, obtained a loan of the money, and failing to reimburse it, the building was consequently left in an unfinished state which dilapidating time has; now changed into a picturesque ruin.

A monastic institution, is said by Speed, to have been formed here, by a *John de Sunimore,* A. D. 1399. But from an authentic document on a mutilated ancient brass, found some years since, it appears, the house, which was a priory for *Carmelites,* or white friars, was founded long anterior to that date, by *John Salusbury,* of Lleweni, who died March 7, 1289.† The conventual church, in which the family of the founder were interred till the era of the reformation, is the only remaining part of the building; and this has long been sacrilegiously desecrated and converted into a barn.

An almshouse, built of hewn stone, is said to have been erected here, by one Fleming, and a chapel near it, called 'capelle Fleming;' the one untenanted and the other desolate in the time of Leland.‡

The *new* town, occupying the present site, below the rocky ridge, gradually arose from the old; the increase of one producing

* This undeserving court minion, immediately after his receiving a grant of the Seigniory, made the country feel the weight of his oppression. For though the tenantry, on his taking possession of the lordship, had presented him with two thousand pounds; yet his insatiate avarice induced him to advance the old rents, amounting annually to two hundred and fifty pounds, as far as the enormous sum of *eight or nine hundred*: and in addition to this grievance, he wantonly inclosed the waste lands, at will, to the injury of the freeholders and others; who, irritated by his rapacity, incurred the stigma of exciting riot and rebellion, by rising to exercise their right of removing the nuisance by levelling his encroachments§.

† Collins's Baronets, Edit. 1720, Vol. I. 82.

‡ Vol. V. p. 57.

§ Secret Memoirs of Robert, earl of Leicester.

ducing the decay of the other. This, extending down the slope of the hill, and some way round the base, consists principally of one long street, with a few good houses; but the collateral streets, or rather lanes, are very irregular and ill built. By the return made to government, the number of houses was stated to be 534, and the inhabitants 2391. Of this population, 794 were represented as employed in trade. Its manufactures in gloves and shoes, are very considerable, and large quantities are sent to London and other places.

Denbigh was made a *borough* in the time of Edward the first, who granted to Henry Lacy, and all his men, then inhabiting the town, or that should *for ever* inhabit it, that they should be *free*, and acquitted for ever, from all soc, sac, toll, stallage, payage, panage, murage, pontage, and passage, through all his territories, formerly belonging to the King of Wales; and also, through divers English counties, enumerated in the letters patent. These privileges were confirmed by several subsequent monarchs, and the present charter was obtained in the reign of Elizabeth. By virtue of this, the corporation consists of two aldermen, who are justices, having the power to hold quarterly sessions, two bailiffs, who with the aldermen are commissioners of array, twenty-five capital burgesses, a recorder, two coroners, and other subordinate officers. Conjointly with Holt and Ruthin, it possesses the power of sending one member to the united parliament. The elective franchise is vested in resiant burgesses, that is, the resident inhabitants, and the bailiffs are the returning officers.

Though by the charter, the borough extends one mile and a half each way, from the centre of the town, yet the parish church, *St. Marcelles*, is at WHITECHURCH. In the church porch, on a small brass, effigies represent, in the attitude of kneeling, RICHARD MYDDLETON, of Gwaynynnog, governor of Denbigh castle, in the reigns of Edward the sixth, Mary, and Elizabeth, and JANE, his wife; both of whom, were interred here. Behind him, in relievo, are nine sons, and behind her, seven daughters. She died in 1565, and he ten years after. A string

string of verses, notable only for their quaintness, exhibit an humble attempt to impress the idea of his singular virtues on the minds of posterity.

A mural monument, erected to the memory of HUMPHREY LLWYD, contains a clumsey figure, in a supplicating posture, and Spanish costume, of that learned and distinguished antiquary. After graduating at Oxford, he adopted the medical profession, and became domestic physician in the family of the last Fitzalan, earl of Arundel. He represented in parliament the borough of Denbigh, his native place, where he prematurely died, 1568, in the forty-first year of his age. Exclusive of his skill in physic and music, he is celebrated as an excellent rhetorician, a judicious philosopher, and profound antiquary. Though his life was short, he left several proofs of his science and industry. To his friend Ortelius, for whose Geography he drew a map of England, corrected from improved surveys, he dedicated his "Commentariolum Britanniæ," and his Epistle "De Mona Druidum insula, antiquitati suæ restituta." Among various tracts left unpublished, was a Welsh chronicle, deduced from the time of Cadwalader, and a continuation of Caradoc's History of Cambria. Camden was considerably indebted to him for assistance, in the Britannia; and for Lord Lumley, whose sister, Llwyd had married; he collected many useful and curious books, which at present form a small, though valuable part of the library, attached to the British museum.*

LLEWENI HALL, the seat of *Michael Hughes, Esq.* has obtained considerable celebrity by several of its possessors. At this place resided about 720, *Marchweithian*, one of the fifteen tribes, or ancient nobility, of North Wales. An English family of the name of *Salusbury*, settled here sometime before the reign of Henry the third; Sir John Salusbury, was first husband of Catherine Tudor, better known in this country by the distinctive appellation of *Catherine Beram*, or *Beren*, from the

* Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 117, in which is an excellent engraved portrait of him, from a painting in possession of a representative, John Lloyd, Esq. of Aston.

the name of her patrimonial seat in the vicinity. Her second was Sir Richard Clough, on which occasion, tradition states, that being handed to church by Maurice Wynn, of Gwydir, she received a whispering wish of bestowing her hand on himself in preference to his friend. The fair widow politely declined acceptance of the offer, candidly observing, that in her way she had agreed to proposals made by the knight; but, that in case of survivorship, he might depend on his being her third; and she afterwards verified the amatorial assurance. Her fourth was Edward Thelwall, Esq. of Plas y Ward; whom she left a widower, departing this life August 27, 1591, and was buried at Llanyfydd; but no commemorative monument appears to mark the place of her interment, though from the number of her descendants, she has obtained the ideally prolific distinction of *Mam Cymru*, mother of Wales.*

The eldest son of Catherine, by her first husband, was Thomas Salusbury, who was executed 1586, for the share he was supposed to have had in the notorious concern called *Babington's Plot*; when Lleweni, came by heritable right, into possession of his elder brother, Sir John Salusbury, the strong. Sir Thomas, a descendant of this house, was an eminent loyalist in the time of Charles the first. This gentleman, distinguished himself both by his sword and pen, having, as Wood† observes, 'a natural geny to poetry and romance,' exercised himself much in those juvenile studies; and produced in English verse, "The History of Joseph," comprising thirteen chapters.

Lleweni descended to the *Cottons*, in the reign of Charles the second,

* An excellent three-quarter length figure of this lady, depicted on wood, is in the collection at Lluesog Hall, and from the date, 1568, has been attributed to that celebrated portrait painter, in the time of Elizabeth, *Lucas de Heere*, though not enumerated among the works of the artist, in Walpole's Anecdotes of painting. From this picture, a fine engraving by the masterly hand of *Bond*, accompanies, anecdotes of the subject in Yorke's Royal Tribes.

† Athenæ Oxonienses.

second, by the marriage of Sir Robert Cotton with Hester, sister and heiress of Sir John Salusbury, the last baronet of that name.

From the Cotton family, it was transferred by purchase to the *Hon. Thomas Fitzmaurice*, uncle to the marquis of Landsdown, and father of the late noble possessor.

Situated in a flat lawn, Llewenl hall, appears to a disadvantage: but from it are delightful views of the hills, ranging on both sides of the vale, and terminated by the castle and town of Denbigh. A noble semi-circular brick building too near it also tends to distract the view of the spectator. This extensive structure was erected by the late owner, for the most patriotic purposes, viz. furnishing labour for the poor inhabitants of the district, by means of a *bleachery*, and aiding his numerous Irish tenantry, by receiving linen for his rents in lieu of money. The manufactory, for many years, gave employment to a great number of hands, and the beneficial effects were very sensibly experienced in the neighbourhood. But since the death of Mr. Fitzmaurice, the attention to the concern has greatly relaxed, the trade consequently declined, and the activity, which used to animate the environs of the place, appears to have followed the commercial spirit of its once beneficent promoter.

The FERME ORNEE, of *Mrs. Lloyd*, near the handsome bridge of Pontriffith generally attracts the traveller's notice, from the idea it furnishes of an elegant retirement, the grounds being naturally laid out, with all the accompaniments, simple in their design, and tasteful in their execution.

HENLLAN, long remarkable for what has been humourously described, as exhibiting "a schism between church and steeple," the former having been removed into the bottom, and the latter still maintaining its ancient station on the brow of the hill, is placed under the ecclesiastical guardianship of *Sadwrn*, or *Saturnus*, a cotemporary saint with Wenefrede: the object of his protection, viz. the church, is no less notable for having a roof formed of *shingles*, generally considered of *Saxon* invention. A monumental inscription acquaints the reader, that here was in-

church-yard lies a man, who lived three miles to the north of it." But corroborative evidence of a less dubious character, may be found in the valuable geological fact, that when the sea has far ebbed, a considerable space of tenacious loam contains the trunks of oak trees, nearly integral in form, but so deprived of their original contexture, as to admit of being cut by a knife with equal facility as wax. This wood is sought after by necessitous people, who, after having given it induration, by drying on the beach, use it as fuel, though it admits a very offensive effluvia.

To the west of Abergeleu, the country becomes more elevated, rising into limestone hills, in which lead ore has been frequently found. On one of these, denominated *Coppa yr Wylfa*, or the mount of the watch tower, are the remains of a strong British post. The accessible parts were strongly defended by deep fossa, and high valla, composed of loose stones. The prominent part of the camp had a vast natural mound, formed by the precipitous side of the projecting hill. Numbers of persons are in this vicinity employed in blasting the limestone rock, which is converted into lime as a manure, or exported in small vessels, for that and building purposes, to distant places along the coast.

A lofty precipice denominated *Cefn Ogo*, which displays the calcareous nature of the strata, being a dusky white colour, except where it is agreeably variegated with a clothing of the frondiferous ivy, is curious, from the circumstance of its sea front, containing several subterraneous excavations, which occasion strong soniferous ingurgitations of the waves, at certain states of tide. One of these, that by way of pre-eminence obtains the appellation of *Yr Ogo*, or the cavern, is worthy of the traveller's notice, and will bring strongly to the classical visitant's collection, the Sibyl's cave, described by the Mantuan bard,

The

"Spelunca alta fuit, vastoque immanis hiatu
Scrupea."*

* Virgilii Æneid. Lib. VI. This celebrated cavern in Italy, still retains the distinctive name of *grotta di Sibylla*.

The entrance is certainly a most magnificent vestibule, and furnishes an imposing idea of the internal grandeur. "Its mouth resembles the huge arched entrance of a Gothic cathedral. A few feet within this, and immediately in the centre of it, a rock, rising from the floor to the lofty roof, not unlike a massive pillar rudely sculptured, divides the cavern into two apartments. The hollow to the left soon terminates; but that to the right, spreads into a large chamber thirty feet in height, and stretching to an uncertain depth, as human curiosity has never been hardy enough to attempt ascertaining it. Making a sharp turn, a few yards from the entrance, and sweeping into the interior of the mountain; the form and dimensions of this abyss, are concealed in impenetrable darkness; we could only follow its windings, therefore about forty yards with prudence as the light here totally deserted us, and the flooring became both dirty and unsafe. Stalactites of various fanciful forms, decorate the fretted roof and sides of this extraordinary cavern, the entrance of which, commands a view surprisingly grand and extensive."*

The road leading to the principal ferry over the Conwy, now widened for the accommodation of the mail and other coaches, formerly, like the one over Penmaen mawr, was along a ledge on the precipitous side of Penmaen Rhos: a huge calcareous rock, jutting into the sea and forming the western horn of Llandulas bay.

In one of the adjacent deep glens, that unfortunate monarch, Richard the second, was surrounded and taken by an armed banditti, and delivered up to his bitter enemy and rival, the political Bolingbroke. Duped by the designing arts, and confiding in the professed and apparent friendship of Northumberland, the King was induced to accompany the earl from Conwy to Flint, where the usurper then was stationed with his army, under the plausible pretext of adjusting their unhappy differ-

* Warner's Second Walk through Wales, p. 270.

ences in an amicable manner: the fatal result of which meeting is generally known*.

Amidst heath-clad hills at the head of a small valley, through which the rivulet Aled flows, hastening to join the Elwy, stands the village of

Llansannan with its church, reputedly dedicated to *Sannan*, cotemporary with a host, that are still by the vulgar minds supposed to have been possessed of exclusive holiness.

A descendant of Molwynog, one of the fifteen Northwallian tribes, is said to have peopled the country with the *Llwyds*, in English *Greys*, Bleyddyn Fychan having assumed the surname of Llwyd, among whose beneficial deeds may justly be reckoned, in a country like this, and taking the period of its performance into the account, his having erected a bridge of *stone* over the mountain torrent.

Another of this race, and of the same name, having been dissatisfied with the conduct of his tenantry, in a paroxysm of fury, chased them like beasts of prey from his estates, and converted the whole into a *forest*; an appellation commemorative of the ferocity which the land bears to the present day. A strong, this, though not a favourable portraiture of the manners in those times, and an exemplification of what an amiable writer says, "We cannot deny, but that we were to the excess.

Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel†."

There is in the paroch of Llansannan in the side of a strong hille a place, wher ther be 24 holes or places in a roundel for men to sit in, but sum lesse and sum bigge cutte oute of the mayne rok by mannes hand; and there childern and young men cumming to seke their cattelle use to sitte and play. Sum caulle it the *Rounde Table*‡." This extraordinary work, previously mentioned, as said to be allusive to an institution of knighthood

* This affecting story is elucidated by prints, copied from ancient illuminated manuscripts, in Strutt's Regal Antiquities.

† Pennant's Tours in Wales, Vol. I. p. 183.

‡ Leland's Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 59.

knighthood attributed to Arthur, has been unnoticed by most travellers, and unaccounted for by all.

Dyffryn Aled Hall, an elegant modern mansion, erected on the slope of a hill opposite the old house, for generations a seat of the Wynne family, now belongs to *Pyers Wynne Yorke*, Esq. by a heiress of the family, marrying his father, the late Philip Yorke Esq. of Erddig.

In the parish of Nantllyn or *Nantglyn*, was born David Samwell, whose talents reflected honour on his native place. His genius turned towards poetry, of which he produced some elegant specimens; but entering into the medical profession, he was appointed a surgeon in the royal navy, and sailed in the Discovery with Captain Cook to the Pacific ocean. There he was an eye-witness of that celebrated circumnavigator's death, of which melancholy catastrophe he wrote a circumstantial account, published in the Biographia Britannica. His own death occurred in the autumn of the year 1799.

In this desolate part of the county are several small lakes, from one of which the Aled issues, whose waters, a short distance from the source, falling over a rocky ledge of a vast height into a deep glen, form a fine, though naked cataract. A little further down, the same rivulet tumbles over a mass of irregular strata, into a horrible black-looking cavern, whose gloom is both heightened, and relieved, by the diversifying effects of venerable oaks, that adorn its surrounding scenery.

The village of Gwytherin will descend in story to posterity, as long as the memory of superstition shall survive. Its small church is celebrated, as having had the honour of becoming a place of interment for the precious remains of *St. Wenefrede*, after her decollation, and revivification. On her reputed second death, she was buried in this secluded spot, whither she had sometime previously retired for devotional purposes, under strong and mental inducement. On the decease of St. Beuno, she is said to have been warned by a visionary voice, to visit St. Deifer, then resident at Bodfari, for spiritual information, by whom she was directed to St. Sadwrn

at Henllan; who further advised her to seek an asylum with St. Elerius at Gwytherin. Having adopted the last recommendation, she repaired to this spot, where it is stated, then existed a convent of nuns, and having received the veil from the hands of the local saint, on the demise of *Theonia*, she was elected by the sisterhood, lady *Abbess*. In this silent retreat the corpse was permitted for centuries to rest in peace, but its miraculous powers magnifying with increasing darkness, and a monk of Shrewsbury having witnessed its amazing beneficial effects, the abbot of the Benedictine house there, in the reign of Henry the first, sensible what an acquisition of derivable sanctity, and consequent power, it would give to the fraternity, determined to have it conveyed to his reliquary; and for the purpose obtained a royal mandate of removal. But the possessors, alike aware of the invaluable nature of the treasure, demurred against the king, for a time refused to resign the deposit; and which was at length got out of their hands by detestable stratagems, not unusually practised in those ages of superstition: ages when murder was even sanctioned by the privilege of sanctuary, and ecclesiastics could reconcile with the ideas of conscious rectitude, moral and immoral, confound vice and virtue under polemical distinctions; and encourage the most errant knavery, glossed under the barefaced incongruity, *pious frauds*.

LLANRWST,

A market town in the western part of the county, stands on the eastern bank of the river Conwy, and though but a small place containing 662 houses, and 2549 inhabitants; yet centrically situated in a vale, far distant from any other mart, it monopolizes the chief trade of the surrounding district, and is still famed for its large cattle fairs, and the peculiar manufacture of Welsh harps.

The place presents nothing striking in appearance, the streets being chiefly narrow, except that in which stands a spacious market hall, and the houses irregularly built.

The

The Church externally, is a very mean building, and internally little better; but a chapel adjoining has some claims to attention, as having been built after a design by the celebrated architect, *Inigo Jones*, and its possessing a considerable portion of elegance. The carved and fretted roof is said once to have ornamented the conventual church of Maenan abbey, which stood about the distance of three miles.

A large stone coffin, ornamented with carved quaterfoils, which contained the remains of *Llewelyn ap Jorwerth*, has lately been rescued from some rubbish in the church, and removed into this more appropriate situation. That prince was interred at Conwy abbey, in the year 1240; but on the translation of the monks from thence, to their new house at Maenan, the body was probably brought to that place; and at the general dissolution of religious houses again deposited at Llanrwst.

An ancient monument has lately received the same deserved attention. This is a recumbent figure, represented as armed, with the feet resting on a couchant lion. The inscription points out its designation.

HIC JACET HOEL COYTMORE AP GRUFF: VYCHAN AMN;

Hoel Coytmore anciently possessed the Gwydir estates, which having been sold by his son, afterwards became the property of the Wynnes.

Though this was a place of interment for that family, there are no other monuments worthy of notice, except one, and that only from the circumstance of its bearing a singularly long, and curious inscription, which after stating, "This chapel was erected anno Domini 1633, by *Sir Richard Wynne* of Gwydir, in the county of Caernarvon, knight and baronet, treasurer to the high and mighty princess Henrietta Maria, queen of England, daughter to king Henry the fourth of France, and wife to our sovereign Charles;" proceeds to detail the pedigree of the founder, up to Owen Gwynedd.

Against the wall of the chapel have recently been placed five brasses, which formerly decorated the floor, and are justly considered

considered as very fine specimens of chasing in the seventeenth century. These respectively, besides the inscriptions, consist of a portrait, representative of the person it was designed to commemorate. Four were done by a *Sylvanus Crew**; but a half length figure of dame Sarah Wynne by a *William Vaughan*, is most admired in point of execution.

The bridge, considered the most prominent object, and worthy of curiosity in this place, must not pass unnoticed. It was built after a design by the same architect, who furnished a plan for the chapel. But this, though cotemporaneous, was a *public* work, having been constructed by an order from the privy council in the ninth year of Charles the first; and the expence, estimated at one thousand pounds, conjointly defrayed by the counties it connects, Caernarvon and Denbigh. Though not a magnificent it is a handsome structure, consisting of three arches, the central one the largest, measuring near sixty feet in the span; the collateral are of lesser dimensions, one of which is said to have been rebuilt by an inferior genius in the year 1703. The centre consists of a much larger portion of a circle, than the remaining two, and the segment of each has the chord less than the diameter. It is a circumstance credited by many, that this bridge is formed upon such nice principles, that when a person pushes against the large stone, placed over the middle arch, the whole fabric may be felt in vibrating motion. But if this very dubious property of large structures be admissible at all, as a proof of due proportion in masonry, it can only be applied to such as are very massy, and carried to a much greater elevation in the atmosphere, than the one in question.

* It is both remarkable, and to be regretted, that neither of these excellent artists, under the titles of engravers, or chasers, has been recorded in the annals of the *Fine Arts*, although this mode of ornamenting the tombs of distinguished persons, by enchased memorials in brass, was in use for several centuries. And the more so, as it is probable the custom was borrowed from classical antiquity; and consequently, though a mechanical operation; yet, as requiring a portion of genius combined with science, chalcographers must have ranked far above the common workers in metallic substances.

LLANRUST BRIDGE,
North Wales.

question. The whole presents a fine architectural nexus in the surrounding scenery, that both above and below is enchantingly charming, gratifying the longing lingering sight, with the finest combinations of objects, grouped in endless diversity. The dense woods, and towering hills, which line both margins of the winding Conwy, are enlivened by the varying waters, and these again more vivified by the busy display on its surface, the whole river being animated, either with the small vessels arriving at, or departing from TREFRIEW, a village about two miles down, the highest point to which the tide flows; or with the still more diminutive coracles, that ply fishing for salmon and smelts; quantities of which are caught in their respective seasons. Not so diffusely extended as the vale of Clwyd, and less contracted than that of Llangollen, Llanrwst is generally admired by the lovers of nature; and the extensive landscape presenting its features in all desirable distances, has been considered by the votaries of taste as exhibiting the most variegated assemblage of beauty, the pencil could possibly depict. This *vale* and not the *town*, was the subject of eulogium from the masterly hand of that competent judge of the sublime and beautiful, Mr. Burke, who pronounced it "the most charming spot he had seen in Wales."

Ascending from Llanrwst to the south east of the river, the road winds through a fine wood of sapling oaks, interspersed with beech, chesnut, the elegant pensile birch, and the splendid mountain ash. From the summit of the hill a good view is obtained of the vale just described. But a dreary contrast of gloomy heaths and barren morasses, bounded by brown and dark-looking mountains, succeed, till at length the eye is relieved by the plantations surrounding,

VOELAS HALL, a venerable mansion, is the seat of the *hon. Mrs. Finch.*

In the vicinity of *Capel Voelas*, among the pillars, described by Camden as standing in his time, remains a large column, bearing an inscription partly in Latin, and partly in Welsh, said to allude to the interment of a prince Llewelyn; and a

mount, on which formerly stood a castelet, has been added in confirmation of the opinion. But there is reason to bt the accuracy of such an interpretation, when so able an iquary as Humphrey Llwyd, confessed, that in his time it very obscure. The characters, are uncouth, and most of n now obliterated.

PYTTY JEVAN is considered as having once been one of e Asyla, or places of safety, formed by the *knights of St. of Jerusalem*, through divers countries, for the protection marmed travellers in turbulent times: and who extended ivilege of all-shielding sanctuary to this, at the time, indoubtable part of the island. After the abolition of that lay r, the place thus exempt from jurisdiction, became a renous for the vile and profligate; who committed depredas on the surrounding district far and near, with impunity, they were either extirpated, or dislodged in the reign enry the seventh, by the vigorous patriotism of Meredydd van. In the church are three alabaster figures, commeive of *Rhys ap Meredydd*, who had the honour of being d bearer to Henry, duke of Richmond, in the celebrated e of Bosworth field; *Lowry* his wife; and their son, *Robert ap Rhys*, cross bearer and domestic chaplain to the great Cardinal Wolsey.

After a long interval, another charitable institution arose. Captain Richard Vaughan, a poor knight of Windsor, erected, in the year 1600, an almshouse for the reception of six indigent old men, and endowed it with a weekly allowance for bread and coals.

CERIG Y DRUIDION is said to derive the latter appellation, from its supposed relation to the awful superstition of the aboriginal Britons. And numerous vestiges of their ancient mode of worship, upon such a supposition, certainly subsisted some years since in the vicinity. These monuments, which, consisted of *Cistveini*, or chest-stones, furnished Camden with an opportunity of giving a laboured etymological disquisition on the origin of the term *Druid*. Similar monuments dispersed over

Wales, have by some been considered as bardic altars, and by others, as places of confinement for victims or other prisoners, in far distantly remote ages. Those, discovered at this place, which afforded, when intire, fair specimens of such kind of memorials, are thus described in a letter of Mr. Llwydd the author of the Britannia*.

"The most remarkable pieces of antiquity in this parish of Kerig y Drudion, are those two solitary prisons, which are generally supposed to have been used in the time of the Druids. They are placed about a furlong from each other, and are such huts, that each prison can well contain but a single person. One of them is distinguished by the name of Karchar Kynrik Rwth, or Kenric Rwth's prison; but who he was, is altogether uncertain. The other is known by no particular title, but that of Kist-vâen or stone-chest; which is common to both, and seems to be a name lately given them, because they are somewhat of the form of large chests, from which they chiefly differ in their opening or entrance. They stand north and south, and are each of them composed of seven stones. Of these, four being above six foot long, and about a yard in breadth, are so placed as to resemble the square tunnel of a chimney: a fifth, pitched at the south-end thereof, firmly to secure that passage. At the north end, is the entrance, where the sixth stone is the lid, and especial guard of this close confinement. But in regard it was necessary to remove it when any person was imprisoned or released, it is not of that weight as to be alone a sufficient guard of the prisoner, and therefore on the top-stone or uppermost of the four first mentioned, lies the seventh, that is a vast stone, which with much force was removed towards the north-end, that with its weight, it might fasten, and as it were clasp, the door-stone. These and the name of our parish, are all the memorials we have of the residence of those ancient philosophers the Druids; at least-wise, all that tradition ascribes to them, &c."

Not

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 814.

Not one is now left integral, the whole having been removed, and either incorporated in buildings, or applied to other purposes.

The road from hence to Ruthin lies over bleak and barren heath-clad hills, amidst which, at CLOGEAINOG, was discovered the lettered stone, described by Camden*, as allusive to some Roman British chieftain, who he supposes probably fell in battle near the place.

The inscription

AIMILINI
TOVISAG.

He reads *Æmilianus Tovisag*, or *Tovisaci*, that is, Emilian a chieftain, or general.

RUTHIN,

Like Denbigh is situated on the summit and slope of a considerable hill, nearly in the centre of the vale of the Clwyd, which river runs through the place, and is here an inconsiderable rivulet, only serving the purposes of water mills in the neighbourhood. The town evidently originated with

The castle; and this, from the colour of the stone with which it is built, obtained the denomination of *Rhyddin*, or the red fortress: although it has been conjectured, from the Welsh name, being *Castell coch yn Gwernvor*, there might have been a strong hold anterior to the reign of Edward the first; who is said to have erected the present fortress. Camden, however, asserts, and the assertion, as to the fact, is corroborated by ancient authorities, that "both the castle and town were built by *Roger Grey*†, with permission of the king, the bishop of St. Asaph,

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 818.

† It was *Reginald Grey* that was summoned to the house of peers, by Edward the first in the fourteenth year of his reign, by the style and title of lord Grey of Ruthin, in the county of Denbigh, and on whom he conferred the

Asaph, and the rector of Llan Rhudd, it being seated in that parish;" on whom the monarch bestowed nearly the whole of the vale of Clwyd, for his active exertions against the insurrective movements of the Welsh.

Its history affords few incidents, interesting to relate. During a fair, holden at Ruthin in the year 1400, Owen Glyndwr entered it with a small army, assailed the fortress without success; and after pillaging the inhabitants, and burning the town, retreated in safety to the mountains.

In the time of Charles the first, the castle was held for the king, till the year 1645-6 when on being attacked by the parliamentarian party, under the command of general Mytton, after sustaining a siege, from the middle of February to the middle of April, it was given up; although it might probably have held out much longer: possessing at the time of its surrender, a supply of provision for two months. Mytton received the thanks of the house, remunerated his chaplain for communicating the news, and confirmed the appointment of Colonel Mason, as the new and permanent governor; but in the same year, the garrison was disbanded, and the castle ordered to be dismantled.

The castle stood not on the summit, but on the side of the hill, fronting the vale to the west; and from the extensive foundations, and massy fragments of walls, it seems to have been a grand structure. Camden observes, that, through neglect, it became roofless in the time of Henry the seventh, and fell fast to decay. Some lord who received it by royal grant must have repaired the dilapidations, for the same historian subsequently represents, it as 'a stately, and beautiful castle, capable of receiving a numerous family.' Previous to its demolition it is described by honest Churchyard, as it appeared in the sixteenth century. And from a drawing, preserved in the archives of the British Museum, it appears to have had a very

the seigniory. See Extinct Peerage, and Beatson's Political Index, Vol. I. p. 29.

promoted by queen Elizabeth to the deanry of Westminster; and with other dignified characters appointed an assistant in that great work, a version of the Holy Scriptures*. By his translation of the first epistle to the Corinthians, wholly performed by him, as well as other parts assigned him, he acquired great fame; yet he obtained no higher preferment, dying dean of Westminster, after forty years incumbency, in the year 1601. His regard for learned men was great, as appears from his having helped to support Camden in his travels; who through the Dean's interest was made under master of Westminster school. His desire for perpetuating learning was no less conspicuous in the free school founded here; and his philanthropy still lives in an hospital, established for the aged poor.

The Town Hall, standing near the market-place, is not a very elegant edifice, but has tolerable apartments for the administration of justice; the great sessions being held here instead of Denbigh, on account of its more centrical situation.

The Free School is a good building, and the endowment for the masters highly respectable. It is one of the schools from which young men are sometimes admitted into holy orders, without having graduated at any university, and has long been celebrated for producing excellent classical scholars; and many of whom finish their education at Oxford, the head mastership of the school being in the gift of Jesus College.

The new gaol is a handsome structure, that reflects credit on the architect *Mr. Joseph Turner,* and equally redounds to the honour of the county. Unlike former prisons, where criminality and misfortune met with nearly consimilar treatment, the apartments for debtors are separated from those allotted to prisoners of a different description, by a lofty wall. The yards are spacious, and judiciously supplied with baths. Even the condemned

* Bishop Morgan, also, acknowledges his obligations to Dr. Goodman, for assistance, afforded him in the translation of the Bible into Welsh.

condemned cells mark humane attention, being built on a level with the ground, and consequently are dry, airy and light.

GODFREY GOODMAN was a native of Ruthin, to which, by testamentary charity, he was a partial benefactor. This eccentric character possessed considerable learning, and obtained prelatical distinction, having been bishop of Gloucester in the time of Charles the first. During that reign he sustained the reputation of being a *high churchman;* but under the Protectorate, he wrote a panegyric on Cromwell, who, in return courteous, ejected him from all his preferments. "He was, observes Echard, the only apostate bishop since the reformation, and was the only bishop, that left children to beg their bread;" whereas he was never married, nor does it appear, he ever had any illegitimate offspring. On his ejection, he retired to a property in Caernarvonshire, where he resided in a house called Ty-dû, till his death in the year 1655; and was buried, according to his direction, near the font in St. Margaret's church, Westminster. From his very singular *will**, he died in the Romish persuasion, which tenets he had probably imbibed at an early age; for the dynasty of the Stuarts was not remarkable for general orthodoxy; and perhaps there existed too much reason, under the Queen's influence, for the popular opinion of the day, that the court favourites were endeavouring to accomplish the re-establishment of popery.

The vicinity of Ruthin, for a circle of several miles, affords what is usually termed a good neighbourhood, being surrounded by many genteel residences.

BATHAFERN was formerly a park, belonging to the *lord Grey's*, and afterwards of the *Thelwalls*, several of which family were eminently distinguished in the law. The house stands

* A principal confession in this extraordinary testament runs thus, "I do acknowledge the church of Rome to be the mother church, and I do verily believe that no other church hath any salvation in it, but only as far as it concurs with the faith of the church of Rome." See the will at length in the Appendix to Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 167.

near the foot of a hill, called Moel-fenlli, along the slope of which the grounds rise with varied cultivation, richly diversified by hanging woods. It is now the property of the *Rev. Roger Butler Clough.*

Pool Park and Bachymbyd, both seats of the *right honourable Lord Bagot*, are delightfully situated, and finely wooded, and the latter is remarkable for having in it numerous chesnut trees of very large girt: one is said to be near twenty four feet in circumference.

Llanrhaiader, a village standing on a small eminence, has a handsome church, having an elegant east window, ornamented with stained and figured glass, in a high state of preservation. The subject, a favourite one at the period when it was executed, *is the root of Jesse.* The patriarch is represented as extended on his back, with the genealogical tree issuing from his loins, comprising all the kings of Israel and Judah, down to the time of the Saviour's Advent; the branches, encircling the kings, exhibit diversified foliage. Above is an outline rose, including an eye, surrounded with the radiance, vulgarly ycleped a *glory*; and another rose of Lancaster, to correspond: the former emblematic of omniscience, and the latter intimating the work was executed, after the accession of that house, being finished in the year 1533.* The colours are remarkably brilliant, and the whole forming a beautiful decoration to the building, cannot fail to bring strong to the recollection of some, the finely descriptive poem from the juvenile pen of the late Bishop Lowth,

> "Thy strokes, great artist, so sublime appear,
> They check our pleasure with an awful fear;
>
> While

* A high gratification would it have been to the admirers of the elegant art of staining glass, to have known the name of the artist; whether a *Baptista Sutton*, a *Van Linge*, or some other, unenrolled on the list of fame. But Fame, emblazoning Fame,

"——— mox caput inter nubila condit."

For the indefatigable collector of anecdotes, respecting the fine arts, Vertue, has not even those two eminent men, enumerated in his catalogue.

While through the mortal line, the god you trace,
Author himself, and heir of Jesse's race;
In raptures we admire thy bold design,
And, as the subject, own the hand divine.
While thro' thy work the rising day shall stream,
So long shall last thine honour, praise, and name,
And O! till earth, and seas, and heav'n decay,
Ne'er may that fair creation fade away;
May winds and storms those beauteous colours spare,
Still may they bloom, as permanent as fair,
All the vain rage of wasting time repel,
And his Tribunal see, whose cross they paint so well!*

A conglomerated monument, erected to the memory of *Maurice Jones, Esq.* affords a fair specimen of that false taste, or rather the absence of all, so frequently displayed in the mode of sepulchral decoration. The effigy is placed in a reclining position, leaning on one arm, ridiculously clad in a dress gown, curled wig, and the sarcophagus surrounded by mourning genii; with other puerile accompaniments, which, as the poet wittily remarks,

"Eternal buckle take in Parian stone."

In the churchyard occurs another instance equally reprehensible, of posthumous vanity; a plain altar tomb exhibits that pride of ancestry, inherent in all men; but generally considered a *national* characteristic of the Welsh. A long inscription informs the reader, that beneath was interred *John ap Robert*, a lineal descendant, tracing the pedigree, of Cadel, the king of Powis, and who died at the age of ninety-five, in the year 1642.

An Almshouse, erected in the year 1729, affords an asylum for eight indigent widows, who have an allowance of two shillings per week, and each indulged with ground for a little garden, suggests the pleasing idea, that the beneficent foundress, *Mrs. Jones*, of this parish, was not inattentive to the amuse-

* The genealogy of Christ, as it is represented on the east window of Winchester college chapel, written at Winton school, by Dr. Lowth.

ment, as well as comfort of those, who might become the objects of her sheltering bounty.

Llanrhaiadr hall, a good, though ununiform mansion, part being ancient and part modern, is the seat of *Richard Wilding, Esq.*

At the foot of an eminence, called *Gwladus's chair*, northwest of the church, whence is a comprehensive view of the vale, is *Ffynnon St. Dyfnog*, a fountain in times of yore of extensive celebrity, for the astonishing effects of its miraculous waters. An angular wall ornamented with diminutive human figures, incloses the spring, that supplies a bath, the approach to which, is through an avenue of lofty trees. Formerly a chapel, dedicated to the saint, stood near the well for the use of his implicit votaries: bathing in the water is still reckoned efficacious in several chronic complaints, but more particularly Rheumatism.

Llanferres, obtains note, from having been the birth place of Dr. John Davies, an almost universal scholar; but distinguished most, as a lexicographer and divine. He was the son of a weaver in this parish, and received his education at Ruthin school, under Dr. Parry, which he afterwards completed at Oxford. Entering into orders, he was presented to the living of Mallwyd, in Merionethshire, a place which formed the future scene of his literary retirement. The first effort of his pen, that made its public appearance, was a very curious Grammar of the Welsh language, in Latin; though he had previously assisted Bishop Parry, to whom he was chaplain, in revising Morgan's Bible, which is the version now used in the churches through Wales. He translated Father Parsons's Resolution, and the thirty-nine articles into elegant Welsh prose. His great performance was his two-fold Cambrian Dictionary, in Welsh and Latin, and vice versa. A similar work had been begun by Thomas ap William,* a physician and botanist, who resided

* *The Botanologium*, at the end of the Welsh part of the Dictionary, was doubtless drawn up by him, as Dr. Davies confesses, "In re Herbaria absolutum

sided at Trefriw, near Llanrwst, which on his death being left unfinished, Davies, at the request of the Gwydir family, completed and published in 1632. Three bridges erected at his sole expence, in the vicinity of Mallwyd, are substantial evidence of his public spirit, he died 1644.*

LLANARMON, furnishes a field of conjecture for the antiquary, the vicinity abounding with *Sepulchral tumuli*, or barrows, of no recent formation, their latent contents referring them to remote antiquity. Of such vestiges of interment, divers kinds occur in different parts of the globe, and even in this island; so as to baffle historic research, respecting the period of their inhumations, or to what people they respectively belonged. British, Roman, Saxon, Danish claims, have each a demand upon the inquirer, and where is the criterion to be found? In the tumuli they vary both in their structure and form. Some consist of heaps of naked stones, or of earth only, as many in Scotland, Cornwall, and some parts of Wales. Others, are composed, like those in this parish, of stones and earth intermixed, and covered with sods. Some are oblong, others conical; and both, either having their bases level with the adjacent ground, or surrounded by trenches. The inclosed subjects generally consist of cinders, fragments of bones, and ashes preserved in urns. The latter also are formed of various materials, and greatly diversified in their shape. Position, which might be supposed some kind of clue, merely seems to increase the labyrinthic maze. Many are found with the mouths upwards, resting upon flat stones, and covered with the same kind at top; or, as in the present instance, with the mouths downward, similarly guarded. Adverting to the tumuli at Llanarmon, Mr. Pennant observes, "I was present at the opening of one, composed of loose stones and earth, covered with a layer of soil about two feet thick, and over that with a coat of verdant turf.

latam nihil a me lector expectabis, utpote cui inter Aonidum [illegible] nullus fuerit unquam locus."

* Yorke's Royal Tribes, Cambrian Biography.

In the course of our search, were discovered towards the middle of the tumulus, several urns, made of sun-burnt clay, of a reddish color on the outside, and black within, being stained with the ashes they contained. Each was placed with the mouth downwards on a flat stone; above each was another stone to preserve it from being broken by the weight above. Mixed with the loose stones, were numerous fragments of bones; such as parts of the thigh-bones, the armbones, and even a scull. These had escaped the effects of the fire of the funeral pile, and were deposited about the urns, which contained the residuum of the corpse, that had been reduced to pure ashes.*

It is a curious fact, that these, and others formerly found in Anglesea, should have had this inverted position; but for what purpose, remains yet to be discovered. Might it not have been done under religious impressions, and bear some analogy to the doctrines disseminated at the period?† *Comburation* of persons defunct, appears to have been a funebrial usage, almost universal through the world, in the ages of Paganism. Commencing in the east, it travelled westward, and was adopted by the Greeks and Latins, the Sarmatians, and Scandinavians.

Urn Burial arose out of the practice, and perhaps became equally general,‡ but the light of the Gospel, which dissipated the clouds of darkness, and cleared away the films from the mind's visual ray, extinguished such rites, attendant upon both, and *burning the dead* expired with the promulgation of Christianity. Anterior to that epoch, must be referred the monuments here described, for that the ruling priests in the bardic system, used to consume by fire, the bodies, previous to interment, is evident from the most valid authority. Cæsar§ describes it,

* Tours in Wales, Vol. II. p. 18.

† This appears probable from one of the principal tenets in the Bardic faith; the necessity of *purgation* in some region below, previous to the soul's admission to the state of permanent bliss. See Owen's Introduction to the Heroic Elegies of Llywarch Hen.

‡ See More's Hydrotaphia.

§ De Bello Gallico.

as part of the Druidical superstition, cherished by the ancient Gauls; and Pomponius Mela further asserts, they buried with the corpse various substances and utensils, under the preposterous notion, that such things might be wanted by the deceased in the future state of existence.* Descended probably from them, exercising the same religion, using a congenerate language, and similar in their manners, are presumptive proofs, that the aboriginal inhabitants of this island were accustomed to incinerate the bodies of the dead, and to preserve the venerated ashes in consecrated urns. This however rests upon analogy. But whether or not the Romanized Britons did, scarcely a momentary doubt can be entertained, for Tacitus testifies, they were prevailed upon by the Romans to learn the arts and adopt the manners of civilized life; who also induced them to study the Latin language, obey, and even practise the imperial law, and to erect temples, after the Roman fashion: it is, therefore, an obvious conclusion, the conformity extended to their religious rites and funereal ceremonies.

Near the village of Llanarmon, on a vast and apparently artificial mount, beside the margin of the river, are the foundations of a square fort, called *Tommen y Vardra*, and near it is a large cavern, the roof of which for some length, is of considerable height; but from its contracting as you proceed, it appears of inexplorable extent.

In this vicinity is the celebrated opening through the Clwydian hills, between the lofty summits of Moel Ethinin and Moel Fenlli, called *Bwlch Agricla*, or the pass of Agricola, supposed to have been so denominated, from the Roman general of that name, having marched this way with his troops for the reduction of Mona; and the discovery of denarii, in the adjacent parish, has been adduced in favour of the Romans having once been seated here: but coins are far from a confirmation of residence, nor is it evident from history, that this part of the country lay in the route of the imperial army.

LLANDEGLA.

* Geog. Lib. III. c. 2.

Llandegla, famous for its large fairs for black cattle, is still more celebrated for its sacred fountain. "About two hundred yards from the church, in a quillet, called Gwern Degla, rises a small spring, with these letters cut on freestone: A. G o E: G. The water is under the tutelage of the saint; and to this day held to be extremely beneficial in the *chwyf Tegla*, St. Tecla's disease, or the falling sickness. The patient washes his limbs in the well, makes an offering into it of fourpence, walks round it three times; and thrice repeats the Lord's prayer. These ceremonies are never begun till after sun-set, in order to inspire the votaries with greater awe. If the afflicted be of the male sex, like Socrates, he makes an offering of a cock to his Esculapius, or rather to Tecla Hygeia; if of the fair sex, a hen. The fowl is carried in a basket first round the well; after that into the churchyard and the same circumambulations are performed round the church. The votary then enters the church; gets under the communion table, lies down with the Bible under his or her head; is covered with the carpet or cloth, and rests there till break of day; departing after offering sixpence and leaving the fowl in the church. If the bird dies, the cure is supposed to have been effected, and the disease transferred to the devoted victim."*

To the south of the mountainous pass, called Bwlch y rhiw felen, a pleasing valley opens into that of Llangollen, and is watered by a small rivulet, one of the tributary streams to the Dee. This receives the appellation of *Valle crucis*, from the vulgar idea, that a monumental column erected here, was intended as a cross.†

The

* Pennant's Tours in Wales, Vol. II. p. 15.

† Buck observes, the valley derived this appellation from the monks of the adjacent abbey, pretending to possess a portion of the *true cross*, which king Edward the first induced them to part with in his favour; and in lieu of which, he bestowed on the House considerable immunities. But it appears to have been known under a similar name, anterior to the existence of any such foundation, having been called *Pant y Groes*, or the hollow of the cross.

The pillar of Eliseg, nearly opposite the second mile stone from Llangollen, is a round column, standing upon a square pedestal, or rather plinth, and the summit finishing with a capital; but at present in an imperfect state.* Originally, it is said, to have been twelve feet high, its present dimensions are, plinth, five feet diameter; height of shaft, six feet eight inches; remaining fragment of capital, one foot six inches. As a sepulchral emblem, in days of religious ignorance, the folly of superstition paid it a reverence, bordering upon adoration; and the madness of fanaticism, in a subsequent period, laid violent hands upon the venerated objects, and mutilated this valuable remnant of antiquity. In this subverted state, it lay for more than a century, when the broken shaft was again reinstated on its pedestal, by the laudable attention of the manorial lord, as appears by an inscription on the column.

Quod hujus veteris monumenti
superest,
Diu ex oculis remotum et neglectum,
tandem restituit
T. Lloyd
de
TREVOR HALL,

A. D.

MDCCLXXIX.

This pillar, erected, on a small tumulus, once environed with wood, when, according to ancient custom, such objects were placed under every green tree†, has been ranked among the emblems of Druidical worship, and being inscribed, is supposed to

* A very good graphical representation of the column, in its present state, delineated by Mr. D. Parkes, and engraved by F. Cary, is given in the Gentleman's Magazine, for April, 1809.

† Mona Antiqua, p. 52.

to be one among the first class of lettered stones, that succeeded the *Meini-hirion Meini-gwyr*, and *Llechau*. But the original inscription, now obliterated, which was fortunately copied by Mr. Edward Llwyd*, militates against this opinion of remoteness; by furnishing names, that enable the antiquary in many cases, as in this, to ascertain dates. It was a sepultural stone, raised to the memory of *Eliseg*, the father of Brochmael Yscithroc, prince of Powys, who was slain in a battle, fought with the Saxons near Chester in the year 607†, by the venerative piety of his great grandson *Concenn*. From this circumstance a hamlet near derives its name of Eglwyseg, and a very curious tier of limestone strata, for a similar reason, are called the *Glisseg* rocks, which afford a remarkable geological phenomenon, apparent in what have been termed, *Saxa sedilia*, or natural stone seats. Delving curiosity a few years since opened the tumulus, and by discovering the remains of bones, placed between flat stones, a custom, which succeeded the one of urn-burial; brought to light a confirmation, that the monument was of a subsequent date, to the introduction of Christianity.

Llan Egwest Abbey, situated in this charmingly secluded vale, presents to the eye, perhaps, as fine a picturesque object, as the mind of a painter could imagine, or desire. Grand in ruins, the remains afford still some fine architectural specimens of the pointed style, and the whole imposingly demands of the beholder, a recollective tribute of reverence to its former magnificence; while the awe, excited by the gloom of the surrounding scenery, seems to whisper, this place, surely, was peculiarly fitted for meditation, and one of those seats,

"Where erst devotion did delight to dwell."

A circumstance, the fair authoress of a poem called "Llangollen

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 582. Where the inscription, which was Latin, is given, and according to the specimens of letters, afforded by Dr. Moreton's Tables of alphabets, these tally with those used about the sixth century.

† Bedæ Historia, Lib. II. c. 2.

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.
Denbighshire.

gollen Vale" did not omit, among the embellishments of her description.

Say ivy'd Valle Crucis time-decay'd
Dim on the brink of Deva's wandering flood,
Your riv'd arch glimmering through the tangled glade,
Your gay hills towering o'er your night of wood;
Deep in the vale's recesses do you stand,
And desolately great the rising sigh command."

The abbey, denominated in records, *de Valle Crucis*, was a house of *Cistertians*, founded by *Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor*, lord of Bromfield, in the year 1200*. The endowments must at one time have been considerable; for Guttyn Owain, a poet, who flourished in the fifteenth century, highly commends the hospitality of the abbots; and when describing their mode of living, observes, the table was usually covered, with four courses of meat, served up in silver dishes, and sparkling claret the general beverage.

This was the first monastic institution in North Wales, broken up by the capricious policy of an autocratical monarch. The annual revenues, at the dissolution, according to Dugdale's statement were 188*l*; but Speed makes them amount to 214*l*. 13*s*. 5*d*.

The lower part of the abbey, which had a vaulted roof, supported by massy columns, has been made a farm house and the apartments, once consecrated to seclusive devotion, converted into appurtenant offices. The front of this still retains the designated characteristic, in a large pointed window, reaching to the ground, and the mullions surmounted with elegant tracery. Three rows of groined arches, resting on circular pillars, have over them a room now used as a granary, that once formed the fraternal dormitory.

The cruciform church, built in different styles of architecture, has the east and west ends, with a large portion of the transept, still

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 221.

[illegible] which combine to form a most interesting ruin.

The former is evidently the most ancient part of the structure, having three long lancet-shaped windows, that tend to give it a ponderous appearance. The latter seems to have had a decorated doorway, over which was a large circular-headed window, consisting of three divisions, richly ornamented both in its mullions and tracery; and above this, is a marigold window of still more exquisite workmanship. The capitals of the pilasters within the building finish with elegant foliage. The transept contains a small cloister of two arches, and a mural sepulchral arch, that probably once encircled the tomb of the founder. The edifice is principally constructed of the schistose materials, dug in the vicinity; but the doorways, window frames, and ornamental parts, are all of fine stone. The area of the church presents a number of tall oak trees, which overtopping some parts of the ruin, and hiding others from the sight, blend vegetation with mouldering walls, and contribute considerably to its picturesque effect.

On a conical mountain, forming the back ground to this interesting picture, stand in awful majesty; the dilapidated fragments of *Castell Dinas Bran*. This, reckoned among the number of *primitive* Welsh castles derived its latter name from the Brân, a small mountain stream running near the foot of the elevated spot, on which it is situated; but by whom erected, or at what period, are points, equally buried in the dust of oblivion. Probably it was built by some one of the lords of Yale, whose seat it continued to be for several centuries. In the reign of Henry the third, it afforded an asylum, from the fury of his justly enraged subjects, to *Gryffydd ap Madoc*, who had basely sided with the English monarch, and betrayed his country. At his death, the king bestowed it on John, earl Warren, whence it descended in the succession of Bromfield and Yale.

It was a place of considerable consequence, during the quarrel, which, arising between lord Grey de Ruthin and Owen Glyndwr,

dwr, led to a most formidable insurrection, that only terminated after a long internecine warfare. For the latter, whose residence was in the vicinity, had much to apprehend from this adjacent fortress, and its military outposts, then possessed by the earl of Arundel, a strenuous supporter of the Lancastrian cause.

When it was deserted, or dismantled, does not appear upon record. Leland speaks of its being, when he saw it, in a state of demolition, and adds a curious circumstance, respecting the rocky site, on which it stands, viz. that an *eagle* used regularly every year to build her nest there, and some persons, as regularly attended to deprive her of her young: but the robber was necessitated to shield himself from the retaliating vengeance of the injured bird, by having his head protected by one basket, while he was lowered down for the purpose, in another to the nest*.

It appears from the massy fragments of walls, and the nature of its situation, to have been a fortress of impregnable strength. The shape was oblong, occupying nearly the whole summit of the hill; which is so precipitous on most sides, as precludes approach without great difficulty; and the more accessible part was defended by a trench, cut through the solid rock. The length was about two hundred and ninety feet, by one hundred and forty in breadth; and within were two wells of water, and a small chapel, for the use of the garrison. The materials being the schistose, stone abounding in the neighbourhood give to its broken towers, and tattered fragments of dilapidated walls, a highly picturesque appearance; and from the very conspicuous situation produces, on several points of the compass, a striking effect in the surrounding scenery.

LLANGOLLEN.

This is a small poor-looking town, consisting of a few narrow streets, and the houses being built of dark shaly stone, gives

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 51.

gives it a dingy and forbidding aspect*. But being a thoroughfare on the great Irish road, and situated in an interesting spot, it is enlivened by the daily passing of travellers; and occasionally enriched by the influx of wealthy strangers, who take up their temporary abode here, to visit places in the vicinity, and survey the beauties of its celebrated vale.

The objects the town itself presents are few and inconsiderable. The public buildings are the *church*, and *bridge*.

The former exhibiting little remarkable, as an architectural structure, contains nothing more worthy of observation to the antiquary, but a ridiculous legendary story, respecting its reputed patron saint, *Collen* who, from a manuscript life of him written in Welsh, is said to have descended by his mother's side from Matholwch, lord of Cwl in Ireland. The visitor however will be repaid for a walk, to the elevated, and spacious churchyard, which flanked, by vast mountains in the back, and side screens, with the river rushing violently under the bridge, in front, overtopped by the lofty hill, on which stands Dinas Bran, affords a very grand and pleasing view.

The bridge, erected by *John Trevor*, bishop of St. Asaph, sometime previous to 1357, he having died in that year, has been classed among the *Tri Thlws Cymru*, or the three beauties of Wales. But the situation perhaps is more remarkable than the form. The structure has, however, exclusive of the age in which it was built claims to attention from the observer, upon both considerations. It consists of four *angular* arches, resting upon triangular piers, and the position of the former, differ from the usual mode adopted in bridge-building; for while the span of the largest does not exceed twenty-eight feet, the smallest two occupy the central portion. The river, except in times of flood, generally runs only under one; where the violence of its waters have formed a deep chasm into which they

* From the Returns made under the population act, the number of houses was 289, occupied by 1287 inhabitants.

Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by Pennant.

LLANGOLLEN,
Denbighshire.

they rush from a high ledge in the bed, above the bridge. Built in a place, where from the slippery nature of the rock, it would appear impossible to obtain a solid foundation for fixing a base, sufficient to withstand the rapidity of the current, and resist the fury with which it has frequently been assailed; the permanency proves the excellency of the plan: and has doubtless produced the deserved admiration.

" No place in North Wales, it has been observed, can be found, where the refined lover of picturesque scenes, the sentimental, or the romantic, can give a fuller indulgence to his imagination. No place abounds more with various rides, or solemn walks. From this central spot, he may visit the seat of Owen Glyndwr, and the fine vallies to its source beyond the great Llyntegid; or pass the mountains to the fertile vale of Clwyd; or make the tour of Wrexham:" and embrace the varied objects worthy of surveying, or contemplating on its immediate vicinity.

Llangollen Vale or more properly *Glyn-dwrdwy* the vale of the Dee, has been a subject of general eulogium, and few spots, of equal extent, have obtained greater celebrity, both in a descriptive and an historic point of view.

Bounded by lofty mountains on each side, whose features are peculiarly bold, and interspersed with prominent knolls and swells, which take a tortuous contour, together with the irregular direction of the vale, often cut by collateral openings; it produces a continued variety of landscape. The road, forming an elevated terrace, enables the eye to have a commanding view of the passing scenes, which presented at every turn, are almost unequalled in richness, combined with so much romantic beauty. The union of rich meadows and arable fields, that, in the season, seem to blend the verdant beauties with the rich 'tints of golden grain,' while dark or light verdure of woods, skirting the base of the hills, finely contrast the purple hues of their slaty summits; and the whole, enlivened by the windings of the Dee, sporting through it, in whimsical vagaries, some-

times flowing in gentle meanders, at others hurrying down in rapids, over the numerous ledges of its rocky channel, running parallel across, or diagonal to the stream; produce a diversity of combinations, that cannot fail to interest, and gratify the votaries of taste, and are well deserving pictorial representation.

Plas Newydd, near Llangollen, fitted up in the cottage style, is the small but simply elegant residence of *lady Eleanor Butler*, and *Miss Ponsonby*, two ladies, allied to noble Irish families; and who, it is said, had the courage to leave the world, 'when in the meridian of youth and beauty,' and retreat 'from the flowery, but fatal paths of fashionable dissipation; and to dwell with virtue, innocence, and peace, in the retired shades of Llangollen vale.' They do not, however, live in the conventual seclusion here represented. They visit the first people in the neighbourhood, and are reciprocally visited by them; exclusive of the numbers of genteel and literary characters, who experience the pleasure of witnessing the taste and erudition, displayed in the grounds, and apartments of Plas Newydd.

Llandysilio Hall, the seat of *Thomas Jones Esq.* is a handsome brick-built structure, consisting of a centre and two advanced wings, comprising several spacious rooms. The situation is, however, too flat for the house to have had an advantageous effect. Yet, standing upon the banks, where the river makes some of its most capricious turns, the back ground mountains, whose bases are well clothed with wood, and the side screen a narrow romantic valley, winding between hills, which bound a small tract fertile in corn and grass, the whole presents a pleasing group of scenery.

Sychaint, though scarcely remaining in vestiges, etiam periere ruinæ, should not pass unnoticed by the observant traveller. It was the patrimonial seat of a former Hampden in his country's cause: a man whose character, had it been left to be drawn by a Clarendon, would have been summed up in a few

PLAS NEWYDD,
near Llangollen,
Denbighshire.
The Seat of Lady Eleanor Butler & Miss Ponsonby.

few words, "he had a head to contrive, a tongue to persuade, and a heart to execute any mischief." OWEN GLYNDWR*.

On the north side of the Dee, about three miles from Llangollen, upon the rising slope of one of those finely wood-clad hills, which here environ both sides of the river, stands,

BRYNKINALLT, lately new fronted, and gothicised, formerly a large brick mansion, has the monotony of its features relieved by the elevated site, and surrounding plantations. It was built by the father of Sir John Trevor, through marriage it descended to the Hills, in which family it remains, being the property of *Arthur Hill*, baron *Dungannon* a representative of the Trevors.

SIR JOHN TREVOR was a highly distinguished, and most excentric character. Having been bred to the law, he attained to some of its eminent honours, and consequent emoluments. He held the office of Master of the Rolls, in the reign of James the second, and was so enterprising and unpopular, as to have the disgraceful compliment paid him, of being the designated successor in the chancellorship to *Jefferies*, provided that infamous judge could have been affected by any conscientious scruples. Trevor therefore remained at the Rolls, till the commencement of the succeeding reign: when king William found it expedient, to have recourse to the abilities of Trevor; who was made for the purpose, first lord commissioner of the Great Seal, and at the same time a privy counsellor. Under both monarchs he had been speaker of the parliament, and in the time of the latter, he gave a very glaring testimony, that if stratagem, duplicity and political charlatanry, are desirable excellencies, the royal distinctions had not been misplaced. What was said of Sir Robert Walpole was reported of Trevor, that he was *first*, who by purchasing or unduly influencing

* This place is situated in a spot, anciently included in a comot, still retaining the name of Glyn-dwrdwy; but as in modern divisions it has been stated to belong to *Merionethshire*, a more particular account is referable to a description of that county, See Leland's Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 41, and Pennant's Tour's, Vol. II. p. I.

votes with money, or offices, obtained from the court, was able to manage a party in the house. Whether he were justly entitled to this badge of disgrace, or not, has been questioned; but another transaction, consonant with the same lax system of morals, most unequivocally stamps the infamy of his character. In the year 1694-5 he suffered expulsion for receiving a bribe of a thousand guineas from the coffers of the metropolis, as an inducement, for his endeavouring to expedite the passing the *Orphan Bill*; a work of mercy, he ought solely to have performed from the superior motives of duty and compassion. The sudden prorogation of the sessions quashed an intended impeachment, and the delinquent escaped its consequences, by merely suffering the disgrace, and compulsion of officially putting the mortifying question, "That *Sir John Trevor*, speaker of the house, by receiving a gratuity from the city, &c. &c. was guilty of a high crime and misdemeanor." Such an escape, and such a record upon the parliamentary journals, should have been a beacon against all bribery and corruption in succeeding times.

The character of Trevor was harshness, bordering upon settled severity: and his countenance exemplified it by strong phisiognomick marks. He had a very disagreeable cast on his eyes, which led the wits to observe, on the detection of his criminal conduct, that justice was blind; 'but bribery only squinted*. An anecdote related of him, at once discovers consummate vanity, and detestable meanness; and had it not been coupled with other traits of cruelty towards his sister's son, and other relatives, would not, perhaps, in biographical Memoirs have found place for insertion. "Among his other virtues, observes Mr. Yorke, Trevor was an economist. He had dined by himself one day at the Rolls, and was drinking his wine quietly, when his cousin Roderic Lloyd was unexpectedly introduced

* An excellent engraving is given in Yorke's Royal Tribes, by W. Bond, after a drawing by J. Allen, from a portrait still preserved at Brynkinallt. He is represented as sitting in his robes, as Master of the Rolls.

troduced to him from a side door. 'You rascal,' said Trevor to the servant, and so you have brought my cousin Roderic Lloyd Esquire, Prothonotary of North Wales, Marshal to baron Price, and so forth, and so forth, up my back stairs. Take my cousin Roderic Lloyd Esquire, prothonotary of North Wales, marshal to baron Price and so forth and so forth; take him instantly back down my *back* stairs, and bring him up my front stairs.' Roderic in vain remonstrated, and whilst he was conveying down one, and up the other stairs, his Honor removed the bottle and glass." Sir Hugh Trevor died in the year 1696*.

Chirk a large village, seated on the brow of a limestone hill, in the midst of coal and lime works, with other concerns, is a place of some business, and wears the appearance of a considerable town. In the churchyard are seven aged *Yews*, that well accord with the solemnity of the place. This spot has obtained much celebrity†, from having had in its vicinity a castellated mansion, long the residence of the distinguished family of the *Myddletons*, to the memory of which are several monuments erected in the church; the best executed of which is one for *Sir Thomas*, a distinguished parliamentarian partisan, during the civil wars, and his lady of the Napier family of Luton.

Chirk Castle in the line of Offa's dyke, about a mile from the village, was erected upon the site of a more ancient fortress, called *Castell Crogen*. The present structure, however, is not of recent date, having been erected in the time of

 Edward,

* Royal Tribes, p. 109. It is said, that Thomas Lloyd, his nephew, being bred to the law, and a favourite pleader at the Chancery bar, where his uncle was commissioner, received such pointed animadversion from him, that made mental impression, sufficient to occasion his death at a premature age.

† Mr. Bingley makes a misnomer, when he states that *Dr. Sacheverel*, whose history affords a striking instance of the folly and madness of party, exalting an obscure individual, possessed but of moderate talents, to the greatest height of popularity, was vicar of this place. It was to the living of *Selattyn*, a benefice in the gift of a private gentleman, and not like Chirk, part of episcopal patronage, that the high-church meteor and party-tool ecclesiastic, was inducted in the year 1709.

Edward the first, by Roger Mortimer, to whom, as previously stated, the king had granted the united lordship of Chirk and Nanheudwy. Through varying descent, and fortune, it became the property of lord *St. John* of *Bletso*, whose son sold it in the year 1595 to sir Thomas Myddleton knt. afterwards mayor of London. In this family it still continues, by the female side, and in marriage right is the conjoint property, and respective residence of Mr. Myddleton Biddulph, and the hon. Mr. West.

In the time of Charles the first, its owner sir Thomas Myddleton, then member for Denbigh, having declared himself decidedly against the royal cause, the king by an order, dated at Oxford in the year 1642, commanded Robert Ellyce, colonel of an infantry regiment, to obtain possession of Chirk castle; and after paying up his regiment with the money, arising from any valuables, he might find there, to deliver it up to the previously appointed governor, Sir Thomas Hanmer; an officer who had obtained much military experience, by serving on the continent, under the far-famed Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden. Sir Thomas Myddleton was near sixty years of age, when he took the field in behalf of the parliament, on which occasion he was appointed serjeant-major-general to the forces, and first distinguished himself with Sir William Brereton, in the year 1643, by the reduction of Holt castle. After several brilliant exploits, for which he received the thanks of the House, his name appears in 1648, among the secluded members; and had been obliged for contumacy to enter into a recognisance of twenty thousand pounds, to be forfeited, if he should give, or cause to be given, the smallest molestation to government. Before, or after this, he must have obtained repossession of his patrimony at Chirk. For in 1659, having, in consort with sir George Booth, too precipitately declared in favour of Charles the second's return to the throne, the trees in his park were cut down, and the timber sold. His castle was besieged and taken by the troops under the command of general Lambert, and on the reddition, one side,

CHIRK CASTLE,
Denbighshire.

that had been quite demolished, with other damages, were quickly repaired at the enormous expence of, it is stated, eighty thousand pounds. He died at the advanced age of eighty, in the year 1666, having survived his son, who had been created a baronet at the Restoration.

Leland thus notices the place, as it appeared in his time. "There is on a smaul hille a mighty large and strong castel, with dyvers towers, a late welle repayred by syr Wylliam Standeley, the yerle of Darby's brother*."

The style of the building partaking both of the castle and mansion, is of a square form, having the angles strengthened with four prodigiously clumsey bastion-like towers, and each surmounted by a small turret. The gateway in front, through a fifth massy tower, gives entrance to a quadrangular court yard, consisting of an area a hundred and sixty feet long, by one hundred broad; round which are ranged the different apartments; and the eastern side is ornamented by a handsome colonaded piazza. The principal of these are a saloon, drawing room, &c. &c. a picture gallery one hundred feet long, and twenty two wide, comprising a large collection of paintings, principally portraits: many of which are well executed; and from being works of celebrated masters, as well as handmaids to Biography, are highly valuable.

Among the former, a landscape marino-piece is usually pointed out, to excite risibility: the painter, a foreign artist, having introduced by licentia pictoria, the sea, studded with ships, into a professed representation of an inland waterfall! Among the latter is one of the famous military character, *sir Thomas Myddleton*, already noticed, who is represented clad

* Itinerary Vol. V. p. 34. This was the unfortunate Sir William Stanley, who possessed it in the latter end of the fifteenth century; and after he had by his exertions at the battle of Bosworth-field, aided to place Henry the seventh on the throne, was ungratefully executed, and the property confiscated by his rapacious master. Henry the eighth granted it together with Holt, to his illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, duke of Richmond and Somerset.

in armour; and characteristic of the costume of the times, with a grey beard and long black hair. Another of the great *duke of Ormond*, who filled the highest offices under government with unsullied reputation, and was one of the brightest ornaments in the corrupt reign of Charles the second. Sir *Orlando Bridgeman*, another virtuous character in a vicious age. At the restoration he was made chief baron of the exchequer, and afterwards lord keeper of the Great Seal, the custody of which he lost in the year 1652, by refusing to affix it to the king's insidious declaration, for general liberty of conscience in religious matters. He is drawn in his robes, and represented in lank dishevelled hair*. Beside this is placed that of his second wife, lady Bridgeman. Another represents the ill-famed countess of Warwick, daughter of sir Thomas Myddleton, dowager to Edward Rich, earl of Warwick, and subsequently the wife of the celebrated Joseph Addison. By her inordinate conduct, she is said to have been the cause of some irregularities, that clouded the fair sun shine of his justly merited fame, and to have contributed to shorten a life that was estimable, because highly valuable to society.

Though situated on an eminence, and the surrounding part of the knoll devoid of trees, so as to possess all the advantages of elevation and exposure, yet it wears a heavy appearance, and wants additional magnitude, to give it grandeur of effect. It can however boast what few houses in the island can, that it commands a most elegant and varied extent of view, into *seventeen counties.*

During the desperate struggles of Cambria to recover her independence, the vicinity of Chirk in the year 1164 was the theatre of, perhaps, the most sanguinary battle, ever fought between the English and the Welsh. The successes of Rhys, prince of South Wales, against the Flemings and Normans, encouraged the other princes in the north, to make another bold attempt

* An engraving from this picture, by W. Bond, accompanies Yorke's Royal Tribes.

attempt to shake off the galling yoke of extraneous tyranny; and stimulated them to hope, that similar good fortune would crown their endeavours.

" And therefore as soon as the time of year for action was advanced, David son of Owen, Prince of North Wales fell upon Flintshire, which pertained to the king of England; and carrying off all the people and cattle with him, brought them to Dyffrin Clwyd, otherwise Ruthyn land. King Henry understanding this, gathered together his forces, and with all speed marched to defend both his subjects and towns from the incursions and depredations of the Welch. Being come to Ruthlan, and encamped there three days, he quickly perceived he could do no great matter by reason that his army was not sufficiently numerous; and therefore he thought it more adviseable to return back to England, and to augment his forces, before he should attempt any thing against the Welch. And accordingly he levied the most chosen men throughout all his dominions of England, Normandy, Anjou, Gascoin, and Gwien; besides those succours from Flanders and Britain; and then set forward for North Wales, purposing to destroy without mercy every living thing he could possibly meet with; and being advanced as far as Croes Oswalt, called Oswestry, he encamped there. On the other side, prince Owen, and his brother Cadwaladar, with all the strength of North Wales; prince Rhys; with those of South Wales; Owen Cyfeilioc and Madawc ap Meredith with all the power of Powis; the two sons of Madawc ap Ednerth with the people living betwixt the rivers of Severn and Wye, met together, and pitched their camp at Corwen in Edeyrneon, intending unanimously to defend their country against the king of England. King Henry understanding that they were so near, was very desirous to come to battle; and to that end he removed to the banks of the river Ceireoc*, causing all the woods thereabouts to be cut down, for

* This is commonly called the battle of *Crogen*, a term not, as erroneously stated, used in contempt or derision of the Welsh, for the English evidently meant

fear of any ambushment lurking therein, and for a more clear respect of the enemy. But some of the Welch took advantage of this opportunity, who being well acquainted with the passage, without the knowledge of their officers, fell upon the king's guard, where all the pikemen were posted; and after a hot skirmish, several were slain on both sides. But in fine, the king won the passage, and so marched on to the mountain of Berwyn, where he lay some time, without any hostility on either side, both armies standing in fear of each other. The English kept the open plains, and were afraid to be entrapped in the streights and narrow passages; and the Welch on the other hand watched the advantage of the place, and observed the English so narrowly, that neither forage or victuals could pass to the king's camp. And what augmented the misery of the English army, there happened to fall such a rain, that mightily disturbed their encampment, in so much that the soldiers could scarcely stand, for the disadvantage of those slippery hills. But in the end king Henry was forced to decamp, after a very considerable loss of men and ammunition, because the great charges of this expedition, was compelled to return back to England. But to express the great dissatisfaction he entertained of this enterprize, in a great fury he plucked out the eyes* of the hostages, which he had some time afore received from the Welch; which were Rhys and Cadwalhon, the sons of Owen prince of North Wales, and Cynric and Meredith

meant to express by it, animosity or the desire of revenge; in this engagement, where Henry was so completely defeated, and forced with difficulty to make a disastrous retreat. Many of the English slain on the dire occasion were buried in Offa's dyke, and the part, still allusive to the event still retains the appellation of *Adwy'r Beddau*, or the pass of the graves.

* "Obses ab Henrico cæcatus rege secundo."

PENTARCHIA.

In revenge for the disappointment he here met, the king had recourse to this dastardly and ineffectual mode of retaliation. But barbarity to hostages was not esteemed a crime, nor scarcely a disgrace, in those ages of refined cruelty.

redith the sons of Rhys of South Wales. Some write, that in assailing of a bridge, the king was in no small danger of his life; one of the Welch having aimed directly at him, was like to pierce him through the body, had not Hubert de Clare, constable of Colchester, who perceived the arrow a coming thrust himself betwixt the king and it, though to the loss of his own life*." Lord Lyttleton places this event, as having happened at the siege of Bridgenorth; but the Welsh historians formerly state, that the theatre of the battle was in the vicinity of Chirk†.

The Ellesmere canal in its line near Chirk, passes across a deep narrow valley, where the engineer to avoid the hindrance to boats, that would have been occasioned by immense double locks, and the expences that would have been incurred by the circuitous route, necessary to find a level in such an irregular country; had recourse to another method, for conducting the water across the bottom, viz. an *aqueduct*. This consists of ten circular arches, resting upon pyramidal peers of stone, and which, when separately viewed, must be considered as a great work, and reflecting credit upon both those who planned, and those who executed it. But the engineer had not proceeded in an horizontal direction, far, before he had to encounter, from similar causes, tenfold more formidable difficulties, which to surmount, seemed to baffle skill and defy ingenuity. A still deeper ravine presented itself, through which the river Dee rolls its foaming waters with irresistible impetuosity. This the canal must be taken athwart, or from obstacles that would deter procedure, the concern be abandoned to its fate; and the conductor be placed on the shelf of oblivion. He however took courage, enlarged his views, and like the celebrated *Brindley*, determined to erase from his nomenclature the offensive term, impossibility. Recourse was had to another aqueduct, upon a grander scale, and more extended plan.

Pont

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 189.

† Hist. of Henry the second.

Pont y Cyssyllte, Aqueduct, a wonderful effort of ingenious contrivance, and a convincing proof of the incalculable capability of human energies, when wielded by science, and supported by power, lies a short distance out of the Llangollen and Ruabon road. The aqueduct, in length 988 feet, consists of 19 arches, each forty-five in the span, with the addition of 10 feet 6 inches of iron work, in continuation, at each end. The supporting piers are stone, of a pyramidal shape, measuring at the base 21 feet by 10 wide; but diminishing upwards to 12 feet, by 7 at top; and their height is 116 feet. Over this immense arcade is extended a trough, or large open caisson, made of cast iron, 11 feet 8 inches broad, by which the water of the canal is conveyed over the river 1009 feet to the opposite level. Two iron plates are screwed together from centre to centre, of each arch; and along one side of the canal, is a towing path 4 feet in breadth, with a handsome iron balustrade, as a defence for man and horse.

The elevation collectively will stand thus,

	Feet.	Inch.
Height of piers	116	0
Depth of trough, or caisson	5	6
Height of balustrade	4	7
Total height from the surface of the Dee	126	1

On the centre arch is the following inscription:

"The nobility and gentry of
the adjacent counties
having united their efforts with
the great commercial interest of this country,
in creating an intercourse and union, between
England and North Wales
by a navigable communication of the three rivers,
Severn, Dee, and Mersey,
for the mutual benefit of agriculture and trade,
caused the first stone of this aqueduct of
PONT CYSSYLLTE.

to be laid, on the 25th day of July, MDCCXCV.
when Richard Middleton of Chirk, Esquire, M. P.
one of the original patrons of the
Ellesmere canal,
was lord of this manor,
and in the reign of our sovereign
George the third,
When the equity of the laws and
the security of property,
promoted the general welfare of the nation,
while the arts and sciences flourished
by his patronage, and
the conduct of civil life, was improved
by his example*."

In the vicinity of Chirk are several paper manufactories, the Ceiriog supplying abundance of water, for giving motion to the necessary machinery; where paper is made of divers qualities, from the coarsest wrapping, to the finest writing. Coals also are found in abundance, and numerous pits are open; in the adjacent district there are quarries of excellent stone.

The traveller will be gratified at almost every step in the highly romantic road from Chirk to Ruabon, but at *Newbridge* his attention will be pointedly arrested, whichever way he turns his eyes, on either side the road. 'About a hundred yards above the bridge, such a scene presents itself, that with the pencil of a Claude, might be sketched in an autumnal evening, one of the most exquisite landscapes the eye perhaps ever beheld. The river dashes along its rugged bed, and the rocky

* A good view of this aqueduct forms a print of a large size, engraved in aqua tinta by *F. Jukes*, from an original drawing by *Mr. John Parry*, of Bryn y Fynnon, near Wrexham, was published in 1806. For shewing the structure, the station taken was evidently a judicious one; but to have made the drawing more picturesque, one lower down, and nearly in the centre of the river, would have been more advantageous, as it would have enabled the delineator to have exhibited between the piers, in the back ground, *Pont y Cyssylte*, a handsome stone bridge over the Dee, consisting of four wide arches with its concomitant scenery.

y banks, clad with umbrageous wood, cast a darkening shade
n the stream, where the sombre green of the oak, with all
different hues of the ash, the elm, and hazel, intermingle;
these again diversified by tints of yellow, brown, and
rn, so pensively pleasing in the fall of the year, produce a
most beautiful variegation. A few cottages beyond the
bridge, with the smoke, tinged by the rays of a setting sun,
while the distant mountains are dyed with purple, by his de-
clining light, add additional effect to scenery, at all times pos-
sessed of interesting charms.

RUABON, or *Rhiwabon*, a small neat village, situated upon a hill, where the roads from Oswestry and Llangollen to Wrexham coalesce, obtains notice from the seat and park immediately adjacent by the auspices of whose owners it originally arose, and under whose fostering protection it still continues; njoying also the additional advantage of several genteel re-
ces in its vicinity.

a chapel on the south side of the communion table is an
tomb, on which lie two recumbent figures; the one repre-
senting a man clad in armour, his head on an helmet, with a collar marked S. S; and the other, of a female resting on a mantle. At the feet a lion couchant with the figure of a monk sitting on it, reclining his head on one hand. The sides are decorated with small weeping figures, and angels presenting shields, once charged with arms that are now defaced. Round the edge of the sarcophagus, a Latin inscription informs the reader, that it commemorates *John ap Elis Eyton, Esq.* who died in 1526, and *Elizabeth Calfley*, his wife, who died in 1524.

The *church* is worthy every traveller's notice, from the neat order in which it is kept, and as containing monuments that surprise, because the varied display of the sculptor's art, the 'storied urn and animated bust,' are not expected to be found in a remote country parish, like this.

He was an esquire by *creation*, as the collar with the initials on the statue demonstrate, and consequently enrolled in the fourth class of honorial armigeri, denominated, *white spurs*.

The

The ceremony used on making these, was, that the King put about the neck of the candidate a silver collar of concatenated esses, and at the same time conferred the gift of a pair of silver spurs; whence the name of the order. This was one of five species under the ancient generic term, esquire. Those were first, such as were elected for attending on the king's person, called esquires of the body; second the eldest sons of knights; third, younger sons of the eldest sons of barons, and others possessing higher noble rank; fourth, the *White-spurs*, raised to the dignity by creation; and fifth, esquires of etiquette, but not of precedence, viz. those ranking as such, from the honour attached to office, or acquire the title by serving the Prince in any worshipful calling. The latter was only a personal and temporary distinction; but the honorary title of white-spurs was hereditary, and descended to the heir male of the family in which it had been once enjoyed.*

Several handsome monuments are commemorative of the families of Williams, and Wynn; among which one on the north side of the church, is peculiarly worthy of attentive observation. It is a magnificent one for the first *Sir Watkin Williams Wynn*, whose virtues are yet fresh in the recollection of the neighbourhood, whose popularity still lives on the annals of fame, and who died by a fall from his horse, September 26th, 1749. He is represented as a fine athletic person, standing in a graceful attitude, clad in a loose robe, and his hands outspread, as though in the act of addressing an assembly. Beneath, on one side is a male figure, the likeness of his son; and on the other a female, the likeness of his daughter: both kneeling, with their hands placed on their breasts, expressive of a lamenting posture. The opposite chasteness of the conception, devoid of all heterogeneous and superfluous ornament, and at the same time the exquisite art, displayed in the execution; evince that the sculptor, exerted the utmost efforts of his art: nor will this work of *Rysbrack*, disdain competition with the admired monuments he

* See Prince's Worthies of Devon.

be erected for the Duke of Marlborough and Sir Isaac Newton; the one placed at Blenheim, and the other in Westminster Abbey. An elegant Latin inscription, the composition of the late Dr. King, of St. Mary Hall, Oxford, commencing

ASSERTORI LIBERTATIS PUBLICÆ
H. S. E.
WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, BARONETTUS—

enumerates in eloquent detail, his mental abilities, social qualities, and private and public virtues; among which latter, his love of political freedom, and his strenuous ardor, exerted in its defence, extorted the reverence of parliament, and obtained him the gratitude of his country: so that the eulogium is as just, as it is elegantly expressed, "Postquam vero et ipse de Republica cœpit disputare, et libertatis patrocinium ac defensionem suscipere, incredibilem animi magnitudinem, atque ejus constantiam omnes ita suspecterunt, ut, cum senatus princeps, tum patriæ pater merito haberetur."

Two others of more recent date, by *Nollekins*,* prove, that the art of sculpture is far from being on the decline in this kingdom; one is to the memory of the late *Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, bart.* and the other to his wife, *Lady Henrietta W. W.* The latter represents that amiable female in the character of Hope, standing and reclining her elbow on an urn, with the goddess's usual emblematic accompaniment, an anchor. This display of the chissel, perhaps cannot well be surpassed. The countenance, the attitude, and the drapery, are exquisitely fine. The figure is placed on a pedestal, in the shape of a Roman altar, on which, in high relievo, is a serpent, having the head and tail united, hieroglyphical of eternity: and within it is an inscription, indicating, that Lady Wynn, was third daughter of Charles Noel, Duke of Beaufort, and died at the early age of twenty-three, July 25, 1769.

These chef d'œuvres of the art, do not lose in effect from

1 rival

* This was erected in the year 1773.

rival excellence, by want of contrast; for a mural monument near, erected for *Henry Wynn, Esq.* tenth son of Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, who died in 1671, affords one sufficient. A colossal kind of such mementa mori, threatens to overwhelm the former by its weight. The subject of lamentation is represented, clad in a full-buttoned coat, short skirts, with square-toed boots, and the attitude expressive of fanatical grimace. To pourtray a person in such a position, and attired in the quaint dress, was certainly an inauspicious circumstance for an artist, who perhaps had formed his taste upon Grecian models. The two accompanying figures, *Sir John Wynn*, of Wynnstay, bart. and *Jane* his Wife, both in a supplicating posture, are almost equally egregious. This has not unaptly been termed, 'a mass and massacre of marble, ludicrous to look on.'

Henry Wynn, was a considerable pluralist, as respected lay preferment. For he held, if not in commendam, by legal possession, the lucrative offices of Prothonotary of North Wales, Judge of the Marshalsea, Steward of the Virge, Solicitor General to the Queen, and principal Secretary to the court of the Marches. In the last Parliament that sate in the reign of James the first, he represented the county of Merioneth, and a letter written to his father at Gwydir, while the son was attending his duty as a member of the House, in London, will serve to throw some reflected light upon modern manners, and recent transactions. This espistle, dated April 2, 1624, proceeds thus, "we sit very hard from *seven in the morning until one in the afternoon, and after, from two of the clock in the afternoon until seven*, in relation to Recusants, state of the Navy, motion against the Lord Treasurer, concerning stamps used by him in stamping his name, which are left with his men. These some held he might lawfully use, but kept safely by him, as the keeper doth the Great Seal. I cannot chuse but remember, what was said by Sir Peter Mutton, of Llannerch, in the House, Sir Edward Coke sitting in the Chair, 'That this time was not the first, that stamps were used, for he had heard before he was born, that stamps were used here in this kingdom.' At which

the whole House laughed; which is not to be forgotten in haste.* To whom presently, Sir Edward Coke called out, Sir Peter Stamp."

Sir John Wynn, son of the above, lies interred beneath, and whom with his wife, the heiress of Watstay, this monument also commemorates. In him, the baronetage of the Gwydir house continued and terminated. He died at the age of ninety-one, in the year 1718. Though a man of pleasure, and what has been termed, after French phraseology, un bon vivant, was not inattentive to the improvement of the state and melioration of the country. Horticulture appears to have been a favourite pursuit, and through his encouragement, several useful roots and fructiferous vegetables, with their proper methods of culture, were introduced into Wales: amongst which, a small-sized swan's-egg pear, is still popular, and retains the name of the *Wynn Pear*.

Dr. David Powell, *or Powel*, was a native, and held the vicarage of this place, to which he was instituted in the year 1571. He was born in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and having been rendered independent in his circumstances by this preferment, with a prebend in the church of St. Asaph annexed; he devoted much of his time to literary pursuits. He translated into English the History of Wales, originally drawn up by Caradoc of Llancarvan, with a continuation by Humphrey Lhuyd. He edited the works of Giraldus, and elucidated them by copious and valuable notes, under the title of "Annotationes." He published also, a treatise, entitled "De Britannica Historia recte intelligenda;" and dying in the year 1590, left for posterity, a large collection of Welsh manuscripts, chiefly relative to British history. He was interred here, and a small mural monument forms his sepulchral memorial.

Wynnstay, the seat of *Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, bart.* is entered immediately out of Ruabon, by a plain, but handsome modern

* Quoted in Yorke's Royal Tribes, p. 10.

dern gateway, opening into an avenue formed of timber trees, almost unparalleled in girt, consisting of venerable oaks, majestic elms, elegant beeches, spreading chesnuts, and patulous planes. Through this, extending a mile in length, a carriage road in a direct line, leads into a spacious lawn, on which stands Wynnstay Hall.

Erected at divers times, and in different styles of architecture, the house cannot be brought in competition with many elegant and more magnificent mansions; being from the above circumstances deficient, both for elegance and uniformity. The old part is principally appropriated to menial, and it may be added general accommodation. For the hospitality, allowable within this division, is emphatically and aptly expressed, in a laconic distich, on a wall within the court, allusive to the name, *Wynn-stay;* or rest satisfied with the good things Providence has so liberally showered on you.

Cui domus est victusque decens, cui patria dulcis
Sunt satis hæc vitæ, cætera cura, labor.
Struxit Johannes Wynn, miles et baronettus, A. D. 1706.

The new part, erected by the first *Sir Watkin*, though only a portion of the original plan, were it not deformed by the incongruous remainder of the old, might be considered a good plain modern structure, substantially built, and most comfortably fitted up. The interior comprises several spacious apartments, in which are some good paintings, principally consisting of portraits, representative of the Wynns, the Williams, the Seymours, and other families connected with them, by consanguinity, or affinity. A head of *Sir Richard Wynn*, who was a gentleman of the bed chamber to Charles the first, when Prince of Wales, and who accompanied him in his romantic matrimonial adventure to the court of Spain; is justly admired as an exquisite performance; it is *Vandyck's*.

A half length figure of the last Sir John Wynn, by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*, bears all the marks characteristic of that avaricious and slovenly artist; and reminds us of Walpole's remark,

" where he offered one picture to fame, he sacrificed twenty to lucre." An engraving of this by Bond, is found in Yorke's Royal Tribes.

Portraits of the Grandfather to the present proprietor of this collection, by a contemporary artist, and his first lady, elucidate the observation of no mediocre critic in the fine arts, that his likenesses were striking, and not deficient in grace and colouring; and illustrate from rival productions, that the more universal talents of *Sir Godfrey Kneller*, and his assuming presumption, carried away the maddening *crowd* from the merits of the modest and silent *Dahl*.*

Two fine full length pictures of King Charles the second and his queen.

Adjoining the house is a neat small building, formerly fitted up in the Thespian style, and in the life time of the late munificent possessor occasionally used as a theatre, which was opened for a week during the Christmas holidays, for the amusement of the persons of the neighbourhood; who thus might relieve the ennui of a gloomy season, by stage entertainments. Dramatic performances have ceased, the present owner having appropriated the room for an annual agricultural meeting, in which competition is excited by rival exhibition, ploughing matches, and a liberal distribution of prizes to the several claimants, under the various regulations of the preceding year; and bounties adjudged to deserving objects, among various classes of the industrious poor.†

The park, from a portion of the ancient rampire, called Wats dike,

* The portrait of Addison, has been much admired, but cannot be said to give a clue to his admirable talent.

† This agrestian fete is held in the month of September, on which occasion the shew of cattle is usually very great, and a numerous and respectable assemblage of practical agriculturists, including nobility, gentry, and yeomanry attend the meeting. Visitors, to the amount of from five to seven hundred, have the honour to participate with Sir Watkin, of the delicacies of his table; and others at the same time partake of the liberal hospitality of his house.

dike, running through this part of the estate, was denominated *Wat-stay;* but on the heiress of the property, a daughter of Eyton Evans, marrying Sir John Wynn, the new proprietor inclosed the grounds, in the year 1678, with a lofty stone wall, formed them into a deer park eight miles in circumference, and changed the name to *Wynn-stay.* The surface is not greatly diversified, yet being well wooded and advantageously situated, is a most delightful spot; the near and distant views are distinct, and extremely fine; especially those towards the Berwyn chain of mountains, with the grand natural breach made in it, beyond Llangollen, through which, in turbulent grandeur, rolls the rapid Dee. Considerable improvements have been made within a few years past, by the erection of baths, new plantations, and a fine sheet of water, that reflects the images of several peculiarly handsome grown isolated trees,* on its margin, in front of the house. Under the direction of John Evans, Esq. who produced the most accurate map of North Wales, ever before published, being done from actual survey, the waters of several brooks and rills were made confluent, so as to form a torrent; which dashing over a lofty ledge of artificial rock-work, covered with mosses and lichens, assumes the appearance of a natural cascade: and very similar to the much admired one in the Marquis of Lansdown's park, at Calne, in the county of Wilts. The rapid stream then winds through the Belan grounds, having its margin skirted with sylvan accompaniments; where a few years since, a sprinkling of stunted hawthorn bushes were nearly sole possessors of the soil. "To those, who can remember its then rude and ragged state, the change must appear the work of some potent enchanter; whose

* These were taught to take new habitats, at a late period of their existence, for with many others in the park, they were removed by appropriate and adequate machinery, from a considerable distance to fresh positions, without regard to their size, or the season of the year; the previou precaution having been taken, to convey with their roots, a large portion of the clinging earth. A similar experiment succeeded to admiration, under the direction of Mr. Smith, at his seat, Stoke Park, in the county of Wilts.

only spells, however, were industry and munificence, guided by the faculty of taste."*

The Obelisk is a handsome free stone column, not seen from the house, but visible from various parts of the surrounding country, consisting of a plinth, sixteen feet square, decorated with oak leaves, issuing, as wreaths, out of the mouths of four eagles, one of which guards each corner of the base. The shaft of the column is fluted, one hundred feet in height, and on the entablature is a circular iron railed balustrade, for the purpose of prospect, nine feet high, to which a well staircase leads from a door below: the whole surmounted by a magnificent urn in bronze. This monument, from a design of Wyatt, was erected by maternal affection, as the inscription on the lower part of the cenotaph testifies,

FILIO OPTIMO
MATER HEU! SUPERSTES."

in commemoration of *Sir Watkin Williams Wynn*, father of the present baronet.

Near the park, the winding Dee makes a horse-shoe bend, and passes through the dingle of the Marten, the justly admired *Nant y Bele*. This spot, that, by its captivating scenic charms, so powerfully excites the admiration of the tasteful Lyttleton, certainly commands many exquisite natural beauties. It comprises a deep ravine, or hollow, having precipitous sides of ragged rocks, between which, in awful majesty, the Dee rolls some way through a wood-fringed chasm, till, at length, it seems to sullenly terminate the mad career in a profound pool; which like the lake of Avernus in Campania, forbids the feathered tribes to cross the surface, by the black appearance of its stagnant waters. From a rock at the extremity of the dingle, looking towards the west, is a fine view of the conic mountain, crowned with the ruins of Dinas Bran, with the

* See "The Bees, a poem, by Dr. Evans, son of the topographical surveyor, printed at Shrewsbury in 1806. Note to book the first.

the town of Llangollen, rising in the midst of the sinuous vale shut in, near its extremity, by the converging Alps. In the back ground Chirk castle shows to advantage, surrounded by the lively colouring of a fertile and variously cultivated country.

Upon an eminence above the river, has been lately erected a circular tower, intended to commemorate the heroes, belonging to the *Cambrian legion* of Ancient Britons, who fell in their country's cause, under the command of Sir Watkin; and contributed so effectually towards the subduction of the late rebellion in Ireland. On this, appropriate memorials, allusive to the several campaigns, are intended to be inscribed, in English, Welsh, and Latin.

Caer-ddin, better known under the name of *Garthen*, in this parish, is a strong British post, situated upon a lofty hill at the distance of two hundred yards from the line of Offa's dyke. The camp is encompassed in some parts with a single rampire; in others further strengthened by two valla and two fossa. The inner rampart consists of a wall of massy thickness, on the top of which is a carriage road. Within the area, comprising about four acres, are vestiges of buildings, indicative that this was a permanent stronghold after the British manner. A severe conflict took place in the vicinity, about the year 1161-2, between the English and the Welsh under the command of *Owain Cyfeiliog*, Prince of Powys, who was the conqueror on the occasion. This victory produced the beautiful poem, previously noticed, called *Hirlas Owain*, composed by the hero himself, in whom were combined the unusual talents, seldom possessed by one person, of warrior and poet.* This

 poem,

* The death of this martial and literary Prince, on whose life *Cynddelw*, a bard, who flourished in the latter part of the twelfth century, has thrown considerable light, is simply mentioned in the Welsh Chronicle, as happening in the year 1197. His eulogy, therefore, can only be extracted from the aspersions of an enemy. Giraldus after applying the opprobrious form of Roman expression to convey contempt, "Oenus iste," that Owen, allows he exceeded all his royal contemporaries, both in eloquence and judgment.

poem, which in the original, may be ranked with the best Pindaric ode of the Grecian school, has been put into an English dress by two able translators; the one the Rev. Mr. Richard Williams, of Fron, inserted in Pennant's Tours; and the other by Mr. Fenton, and published among his Original Poems. Both translators have very considerable merit, and like the odes on St. Cecilia's Day, composed by Dryden and Pope, may distract the judgment of critics, in attempting by comparison, to decide on their relative merits.

A circumstance related by Giraldus of this Prince, in the latter period of his life, tends to elucidate an important feature of the times, viz. the enmity, that subsisted between the bards, and the monastic clergy; and the method the latter adopted to retaliate the sarcastic lampoons, produced by the wit of the former. When the crusaders had met with considerable success, in inducing numbers to take the cross, by the eloquence of their preaching at Shrewsbury and other places, the bardic Prince of Powys, disapproving of what he conceived ecclesiastical charlatanry, refused his assent to the missionary scheme, and consequently suffered a stigma for his religious contumacy. "We also excommunicated Owen de Cyfeilioc, because he *alone*, amongst the Welsh Princes, did not come to meet the Archbishop with his people. Owen was a man of more fluent speech than his contemporary Princes, and was conspicuous for the good management of his territory. Having generally favoured the royal cause, and opposed the measures of his own chieftains, he had contracted a great familiarity with king Henry the second. Being with the king at table at Shrewsbury, Henry, as a particular honour and regard, sent him one of his own loaves; he immediately brake it into small pieces, like bread, given away in charity; and having, like an almoner placed them at a distance from him, he took them up one by one, and ate them: the king requiring an explanation of this proceeding, Owen, with a smile replied, 'I thus follow the example of my Lord,' keenly alluding to the avaricious disposition of the king, who was accustomed to retain

retain for a long time in his own hands the vacant ecclesiastical benefices."*

The district to the left of the road from Ruabon to Wrexham is a valuable mining country, exceedingly prolific in coal and iron; and considerable works are carried on in the neighbourhood, particularly at Bersham and Brymba. The iron ore dug in the adjacent hills is of a dark brown colour, and exceedingly rich, as to metallic products: generating when blended with a certain quantity of the Furnace-ore from Lancashire, previous to reduction, an iron of a most excellent quality, highly desirable in the Ordnance departments, on account of its superior tenacity.

The adventurers in these concerns, with a foresight, the Genius of Trade does not always suggest, wisely adopted the plan of bringing the ore to the coals, instead of carrying the coals to the ore, for the purpose of fusion. Mr. Rowland's furnaces are well conducted, but principally confined to the manufacturing of crude iron, merchantable in the state of pigs. This foundery is, however, well worthy the attention of the inquisitive traveller, for the peculiar ease, convenience, and economy with which the various parts of the process are conducted. Almost every thing is done by the aid of a most powerful steam engine, and Mr. R. appears to have been the first who invented or appropriated to fusion the *double blast*, to give greater facility and expedition in converting the ore into metal; by which application the result is, iron of a superior quality, to that obtained by the old method. The coal procured close to the works, is raised by a neat small four-horse-power steam engine, while the water is drained by one of larger dimensions, in buckets, or trucks, containing five hundred weight, from pits, as deep as those at Bilston in Staffordshire, celebrated for their profundity; these being two hundred and ten yards.‡ The dip of the coal strata lies from east to west,

* Hoare's Giraldus, vol. II. p. 174.

‡ In the vicinity are several other coal pits, the average depth of which is, from one hundred, to one hundred and twenty yards.

west; and the veins run in thickness from eighteen inches to three or four yards: a richness exceeding the well-known Ketley coalieries in Salop.

Other furnaces at Brymba and the neighbourhood, belonging to two gentlemen by the names of Jones, which are conducted nearly in the same manner, produce an article of a similar temper. *Bersham* iron works, two miles distant from Wrexham, belonged to that late celebrated enterprising man, *John Wilkinson, Esq.* but the property is now vested in the hands of trustees, who conduct the concern for the benefit of his children.

These works, situated at *Pont y Penca* near Ecclusham, comprise forges, slitting, rolling, stamping mills, &c. with a large cannon foundery for iron ordnance, a contributory to the grand Artillery depot at Woolwich. This factory of great guns, in the late war between the Russians and the Turks, as Pennant humourously observes, 'furnished both parties with this species of logic;' and till the continent was shut, many parts of Europe were supplied from hence with these powerful instruments, for delivering the *ratio ultima regum*, which it did to a vast extent; and lately the orders, executed for our own government amounted, it is stated, to the sum of 1,300l. per week. Some little business of the same description is still going on, but the demand is far from being brisk, nor is the market equally good.

The various processes of this manufactory 'for instruments of death, is extremely curious. The preparatory step is by forming an accurate wooden model, the exact dimensions of the intended piece, divided in two parts, and nicely adapted to each other. Impressions are made by these, in a floor of fine sand, previously tempered, or qualified for the purpose, into which small caisson the liquid metal is run, by means of a narrow channel, communicating with a lap at the lower part of the fusing furnace. This cast, when become solid by cooling, is removed to the *boring house*, where the cavity is effected by means, though extremely simple, not the less worthy of observation.

servation. The principal part of the machinery for this operation is a complication of rotatory apparatus, comprising large plain and cog wheels of cast iron, working into each other; to which motion is communicated by the power of steam: from various counteracting balances, acting as regulators, the requisite steadiness is acquired for the various movements. The boring tool, as usual in turning lathes, is not in a state of revolution, but fixed; while the solid cast, or cannon, is brought into contact with the tool by means of alternate movements; and adjusting screws, that give it approximation, while it receives a gradual rotatory horizontal motion by means of a cog wheel, connected with another of larger diameter.

Besides cannon and mortars, numerous displays of the capability of iron being employed to advantageous purposes, are exhibited in this multifariously ingenious factory. Wheels, cogs, bars, and cross bars, for the various kinds of rail and tram roads, pipes of different bores for conduits, pumps, cylinders, rollers, columns, pistons, &c. &c. The whole of the heavy work is performed by the power, obtained from two large steam engines; and other parts of it by means of overshot water wheels, attached to an adjacent building, that are supplied, from two artificial reservoirs, by a small brook, here detained in its course, for the purpose of a feeder.

At the latter concern, the forging, rolling, &c. &c. is principally performed, and sheet iron manufactured into various articles, by rivetting the plates together, which formerly were exclusively made of copper, as furnaces, steam-caissons, &c. &c. lead pipes also are here produced by a process, similar to that used in the cannon foundery; being first cast as solid cylinders, and then rendered hollow, by a scooping instrument, not unlike a wooden-pump maker's auger. These are subsequently drawn out to greater lengths by a further ingenious contrivance; and adapted to various uses by being made of all diameters in the bore, from half an inch and upwards.

A mill for drawing out small rods brought from a slitting mill at a small distance, into wire of various sizes, seems to

plete the concern, and to render the Bersham establish-
t, a set of works, almost unrivalled in detail, according to
r extent.

Marchwiel, a village, three miles from Wrexham, has a small,
neat church, lately cased with free stone, and decorated
788, with a very ornamental window of stained glass, from
plastic hand of *Egginton*; but the traveller will lament, that
an admirable artist should have been shackled as to taste;
that subjects, so irrelevant to religion, could ever find a
ce, professedly designated for the performance of its most
lted duty, the exercise of public devotion. The ostenta-
us display of family pride but ill accords with a temple,
where humility is supposed to be learnt; and confession and
prayer are equally dissonant to Heraldic blazonry. The win-
dow is divided into twenty-four compartments, enriched with
coloured borders, and the centres filled with the family arms
and crests, of two distinguished families, the Myddleton's and
Yorke's.

A small but elegant monument commemorative of *Miss Yorke* of Erddig, who in the spring of life, at the age of sixteen, was prematurely snatched from the fond hopes and expectations of her parents and friends, in the year 1770, ranges under a different description of ornament. An elegant female figure, represented in the form and attitude of contemplation, with clasped hands, and clad in a loose dress, leans, as though in the act of lamentation, over a rose bush, an incipient opening bud of which, expressive of the subject, just bidding fair for bloom, appears severed from the plant, and dropped within a coiled serpent; emblematic of it had fallen, but only with a view to rise again.

ERDDIG the seat of *Simon Yorke, Esq.* where anciently resided a descendant of Tudor Trevor, belonged to a Joshua Edisbury, Esq. who erected the present house. The estate came by purchase under a decree of Chancery into the possession of John Meller, Esq. who bequeathed it to the grandfather of the present

present owner, a near relation of the Lord Chancellor Hardwick.

The *house* is a large, but heterogeneous structure, having lately received considerable additions, corrections, and a new exterior, or those alterations amounting to what is termed, modernized, under the masterly hand of Wyatt. The interior, however, does not exactly correspond with the exterior: the plan of the old building cramped the architect, and marred the new. The saloon and other apartments contain some valuable paintings, chiefly portraits, and the library is enriched by accumulated treasures in Welsh manuscripts, among which is the invaluable *Seabright* collection.

The approach to the house, on the Ruabon road, is rendered strikingly beautiful, by a dense wood, apparently impending over the banquetting room, a handsome building, erected upon the margin of a rivulet, that, after passing through some parts of the estate, here skirts the side of a spacious lawn. The grounds are laid out with considerable taste, and the varied walks through the woods afford, during the favourable season, diversified pleasure and a gratifying retreat.

A portion of Wat's dyke extends across the grounds, not far distant from which are fragments of a cemented wall, and foundations of others, the supposed remains of a *Roman* fort. But no coins, nor any other indicative tokens, have been discovered near, so as to afford the slightest colouring for such a conjecture. Both from historic document, and the nature of the thing, it is more probably attributable to the Saxons, who must have had strong holds in this part of the country, to defend their line of demarcation, marked out by Offa. This work consists of several deep entrenchments encompassing an area of a pentagonal form, that apparently was the site of a castelet or bastion tower; and at the verge is an artificial mount, on which probably was another, that formed the dernier resort for the garrison, if hapless dislodged from the former station.

Philip Yorke, Esq. the father of the present owner, was a man of social and hospitable habits, and possessed of some con-

siderable talent. Those who have read his prose works will lament, that he had not written more; and those who have perused his poetical effusions, perhaps, for the sake of literature, may wish he had written under that 'Geny,' as Antony Wood terms it, less. His "History of the Five Royal Tribes of Wales" is a work replete with information, respecting recondite biography, and leaves the reader to regret, the author had not executed his intention, of furnishing a similar account of the fifteen Tribes, or 'Stemmata' of North Wales. He seemed to be partial to the Muses, however forbidding, in their capricious manner of conferring favours, they might be to him. A collection of Poems, consisting of various ebullitions of the Jeu d'Esprit, were printed at the Wrexham press in quarto, under the appellation of "*Crude-Ditties*;" and the title is an appropriate Critique on the work. He died in 1804.

Berse Hall, or Plas Power, the residence of *Thomas Lloyd, Esq.* is a handsome modern mansion, embosomed in fine rich plantations; but the situation is so flat, and the grounds so uniform, that they give the observer an idea of tameness, after he has been accustomed to the amazing efforts of art, and the greater operations of nature, so conspicuous in the vicinity.

WREXHAM,

Is a good town, and lying in the great road from Shrewsbury to Chester, and in a kind of focus, where the convergent rays of vicinage from the adjacent countries meet, is in a flourishing state: but when it is asserted, from the authority of Mr. Pennant, * that this "is a populous market town, and of such size and consequence, as to have obtained the appellation of the *Metropolis* of North Wales," † the traveller who visits the place,

* "This is the largest town in North Wales, and the parish the most populous." Tours in Wales, vol. I. p. 397.

† Bigland's North Wales, vol. II. p. 134. It may however be yet styled. "Trim Wrecksam town! a pearle of Denbighshire."

place, looks with the astonishment, arising from disappointment; and as he travels further, his first surprise becomes mingled with regret: while the topographer makes an appeal from authority, and has recourse to calculation. By the returns made under the census, taken in 1800, it contains 580 houses, 2575 inhabitants; a population less by 1051, than that of Caernarvon: excluding the ideas of its neither being a borough, nor county town. This place reminds the visitor, he has left the ancient seat of British prowess, where Saxon, nor Danish invaders could make any further impression; and that having passed the frontier line of Wales, to the eastward, he may now to a certain degree, consider himself, as standing on *Ty Saesneg*, or English ground.

Wrexham has a claim to remote antiquity, for it is noticed in the Saxon Chronicle, under the name of *Wrightelesham*, and being in the portion of Cambria, severated from it by Offa's dyke, was enumerated among the towns of Mercia; though in a subsequent political division, it formed a part of the district, called *Welsh Maelor*. * The town was granted with the lordship to Earl Warren, in the reign of Edward the first; and Leland describes it, in his time, as a manufacturing place, having some merchants, and good *bokeler* makers'. At present the principle trade arises from its centrical situation, being a great thoroughfare. The streets, crossing each other reciprocally at right angles, are spacious, and the buildings in general good; particularly the high street, where the weekly markets on Mondays and Thursdays are held: at the upper end of which is a handsome structure, a public edifice of the Doric order, the upper apartment, used as a *municipal hall*; and the piazza part below, as a kind of diurnal mart *.

A good *Free School* was endowed by Valentine Broughton, for the instruction of twelve boys, and ten pounds per annum, as a remuneration to the master annually paid, under his will, by the Mayor of Chester, evinces the folly of the bequests, made without regard to the relative value of money; and the dishonesty

* Leland's Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 32.

honesty of those, who do not apply the surplus agreeably to the intentions of the donor.

The *Church*, formerly collegiate, the glory not only of the place, but of North Wales, may vie with many cathedrals, and is ranked among the seven *wonders* of the country.* Erected on the site of the former one, destroyed by fire, at a period, when the pointed, or English ecclesiastic style of architecture had passed the acme, having by the indulgence of two finical a taste protuberantly run out into, what has been termed 'the tawdry turgid Gothic;' it exhibits a specimen of design, proportion, and moderated decoration, perhaps not surpassed, if equalled, by any edifice, built in the time of Henry the seventh. This elegant structure is thus panegyrized by Miss Anna Seward.

"Her hallowed temple there religion shews,
That erst with beauteous majesty arose,
In ancient days when Gothic art display'd
Her fanes in airy elegance array'd.
Whose nameless charms the Dorian claims efface.
Corinthian splendor, and Ionic grace.

But the wild swan, that burst into song, on the occasion in the reign of Elizabeth, pourtrays the building in a more depictive manner:

"But speak of church and steeple as I ought,
My pen to base, so fayre a work to touch:
Within and out, they are so finely wrought,
I cannot praise the workmanship too much.
But buylt of late, nor eight score yeeres agoe.
Not of long tyme, the date thereof doth shoe;
No common worke, but sure a worke most fine,
As though they had bin wrought by power divine.

* This is enumerated among the seven wonders of North Wales, which are, *Snowdon* in Caernarvonshire, *St. Winifred's* well, commonly called Holywell, in Flintshire, *Overton Churchyard*, in the same county; *Gresford bells* do.; *Llangollen bridge*; *Pystil Rhaiadr*, or the cataract of Llanrhaiadr; and *Wrexham steeple*, in Denbighshire.

The

The steeple there in forme is full foure square,
Yet every way, five pinnacles appeare:
Trim pictures fayre, in stone on outside are,
Made all like waxe, as stone were nothing deere.
The height so great, the breadth so bigge withall,
No piece thereof, is likely long to fall,
A worke that stands, to stayne a number more,
I any age, that hath been buylt before." *.

The steeple of the prior edifice was blown down on St. Catherine's day; and the church consumed by fire, about the year 1457. For the purpose of rebuilding it, an indulgence of no stinted extent, *five years*, was granted to every person, who would voluntarily contribute towards the furtherance of the pious work.

The present building, except the tower, was finished about the year 1472: the latter, from a prefixed date, 1506, appears not to have been completed till nearly thirty-four years afterward. During the civil wars this venerable structure, like many others, that suffered under the misguided retaliation and imbecile rage of fanatical fury, was in 1647, by the Parliamentarian forces converted into a prison; and what reminds the observer of Shakspeare's 'Rowland for an Oliver,' is the curious fact, that several of those soi-disant, Republican Grandees, called *Committee-men*, were afterwards confined for a considerable time in it, by the rebel-soldiers; who had dared to mutiny for lack of pay.

This beautiful edifice consists of a chancel, pentagonal in shape; nave, two collateral aisles, and a lofty quadrangular tower, at the west end. The windows of the aisles have a flat-pointed arch, and the mullions ornamented at top, with tracery; between which are buttresses, terminating in slender crocketted pinnacles. The windows of the cleresty are narrower than those of the aisles; the arches rather approximating to the sharp-pointed style; and the embattled parapet has diminishing

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 105.

crocketted pinnacles, corresponding with those of the aisles. The tower, elevated one hundred and thirty-five feet is a chef d'œuvre of architectural display. The shape is quadrangular, with handsome set-off abutments, terminating in crocketted pinnacles; and the summit is crowned by four pierced lantern turrets, that rise twenty-four feet in height, above the the open-worked balustrade; to each of which is attached a circular staircase. The three exposed sides are decorated with various embellishments. Statues of thirty saints * full in dimensions, placed in the niches of the buttresses, while they enrich the building, display the advanced progress Statuary had made at the close of the fifteenth century †.

The interior is spacious, and the side ailes separated from the nave by handsome conglomerate columns, surmounted by arches of moderate point. Over the capitals are several pieces of grotesque carving, reliques of the ancient church; the subjects ridiculously representative of vices, too conspicuous in those ages of darkness, which were practised among the monastic clergy, and the conventual religieuse.

The ceiling of the roof is peculiarly handsome; being composed of ribs in wainscot oak, imitative of the grained work in stone, of the antecedent period. The corbels, supporting the bearing timbers are carved, and grotesque heads with various shields, exhibit the arms of some few among the number of those, who by their advice or pecuniary aid, promoted the erection of the edifice.

At the west end of the nave is a grand receding pointed arch, nearly the height of the building, filled by a window, once

* One of these is representative of the patron, *St. Giles*, with the hind by his side, which, according to legendary story, miraculously supported him in a desert, during a grievous famine.

† A north view, a kind of elevation of this structure, badly drawn, the arches of the windows in the aisles being represented far too pointed, was engraved by a Mr. J. Barlow. A south-east view, delineated by *Allen*, and engraved by *T. Cartwright*, possesses very considerable merit, as a picture; but by no means affords an adequate idea of the building.

once ornamented with elegantly painted glass, which is now so mutilated, as nearly to mar all attempts to ascertain the subject. This loss has lately been professedly and glaringly attempted to be compensated, by a few diminutive figures, &c. that decorate the upper compartments of the windows in the aisles.

The *altar piece* is peculiarly beautiful. The centre is rendered appropriately interesting by a fine painting, presented for the purpose, by Elihu Yale, Esqr: the subject, the institution of the sacrament, denominated the eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. This is supposed a work of *Peter Paul Rubens*, a picture by whom, representative of king David, playing on the harp, to divert the melancholy of Saul, is hung up in a massy frame against the wall of the south aile.

The much admired brazen eagle and pedestal of the same metal, formerly used as a desk for reading the public lessons, was the donation of one John ap Gryffydd ap Dafydd, of Ystivan, in this neighbourhood.

An ancient monument, rescued from rubbish some years since, represents a knight in complete armour, his legs extended, and resting upon a couchant dog; and near, the emblematic figure of a dragon, with his forked tail, terminating a serpent's head. The mutilated inscription,

"Hic jacet——————ap Howel."

In the chancel is an altar shaped monument, on which lies a recumbent figure, full-robed of *Hugh Bellot*, successively bishop of Bangor and Chester, who died at Berse, near this town, in the year 1596. He was a great linguist, and employed, with others, in the time of Elizabeth to translate the Old and New Testament into English, for the edification of the unlearned part of the community: in which great work he bore a very distinguished part. The reformation of religious opinions, did not, however, instantly change the manners of men; nor could it be expected, that the acquirement of fresh habits, should be simultaneous with the adoption of new doctrines. Habituated to the austerities of monastic regulations,

it required time, to shake off the acerbity of character they produced; and under such characteristic influence, Bellot is said to have remained till his death. Strongly tenacious of the preposterous, yet pretended Apostolic injunction of clerical celibacy, he is said to have forbidden, and strictly enforced the prohibition, the admission of any female into his family*. The anecdote illustrates the lectures of a quondum professor at Cambridge, in the following century, Mr. Herbert, the brother of the first Lord Herbert of Cherbury, who in his collection of maxims, for the regulation of the moral demeanor of the priesthood, entitled "A Book of Rules to Country Parsons," gives this sage and, in an economical point of view, admirable advice: "That if he be unmarried, and keep house, he hath not a woman in the house, but find opportunities of having his meat dressed, and other services done, by men servants at home, and his linen washed abroad."

Opposite to this is a monument sacred to the memory of *Mrs. Mary Myddleton*, who died April 8, 1747, aged 59, the daughter of Sir Richard Myddleton, of Chirk Castle, erected as a grateful testimony of the respect entertained for the deceased by William Lloyd, Esq. of Plas Power, her executor and devisee. The virtues of this amiable woman are thus pourtrayed:

"Near this place lie the mortal remains of Mrs. Mary Myddleton, daughter of Sir Richard, sister to Sir William Myddleton of Chirk Castle, in this county, baronet who by a life of true religion and virtue, illustrated the eminence derived from birth, the advantages flowing from an excellent education. Her superior understanding and great politeness ever commanded the highest respect and esteem; her affability and unaffected benevolence rendered her delightful and amiable to all. In her principles unshaken, in her friendship steady, constant in her charity; the misfortunes of others she felt with compassionate tenderness, and relieved with generosity

* Willis's Cathedrals, Vol. I. 332.

rosity truly magnificent, so that her conduct in this life demonstrated how stedfastly she had fixed her hopes upon a better.

"The silent dead, nor tombs, nor praises seek,
Yet what truth dictates, gratitude may speak.

"She died April 8, 1747, aged 59."

This monument will arrest the attention of a cursory observer, and make the most fastidious critic on the fine arts pause, before he will be able to deliver an opinion on its merits satisfactory to himself. It possesses, like all other things devised, or executed by man, both beauties and faults; the defects, however, are few, and the excellencies great. The monument is composite, and perhaps its composition is the principal fault. The design of the sculptor, evidently taken from that sublime passage in the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, is allusive to the resurrection, and the metamorphosis of the body, which shall take place prior to the day of judgment, "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." The artist does not appear to have been restricted in his plan of procedure; for although, as Pennant observes, 'she died a withered woman, she is represented, arising out of the tomb, in all the fullness of youth and beauty.' The figure however possesses such grace, the attitude such correctness, and the drapery such appropriate chasteness, that he must be a cynic indeed, who could ever think of comparing the date of sepulture with the posthumous representation. A most beautiful female form, clad in a nocturnal dress, is exhibited in the act of bursting the tomb, and rising from the sarcophagus, as though it were a couch, in that state of alarm which is produced, when a person has been suddenly roused by any noise, out of a sound sleep. The toute ensemble of this effigy is peculiarly fine: but the countenance is truly Angelic; for though consternation is finely depicted, it is intermingled with dismay; and

the combination of surprize, and delight, two impressive passions, are so finely blended, and so forcibly expressed, that after gazing attentively for some minutes, imagination divests the mind of all ideas connected with stone, and the image of the insurgent maid, seems to say,

> " 'Tis come, the glorious morn the second birth,
> Of heaven and earth, awakening nature hears
> The new creating word, and starts to life,
> In every heightened form, from pain and death
> For ever free*."

The artist however appears to have forgotten, he was attempting to represent a miraculous event, otherwise he would not have introduced a kind of broken coffin lid: and if the incongruous adjuncts of a shattered pyramid, supporting cherubic forms, employed in sounding the last trump, had been omitted, the simplicity being greater, the chasteness of design, would have been more apparent: and the monument as a whole, still more admirably correct. Those, who have examined with a scientific eye the performances of *Roubiliac*, will not hesitate to rank this as equal, if not higher on the scale of excellence, to his statue of Eloquence, representative of John duke of Argyle, placed in Westminster abbey; that of Handel in Vauxhall gardens; or of George the first in the senate-house at Cambridge.

Another monument, executed by this capital master of the embodying art, at the end of the north aisle, is a mural memento for the *Rev. Thomas Myddleton*, and *Arabella Hacker*, his wife. This consists of a medallion, exhibiting two profile likenesses of the persons, it was intended to commemorate in high relievo; over which a neat canopy, apparently lets loosely fall two curtains, one of which is negligently drawn aside, to exhibit the portraits. The beauty of this consists principally in the drapery; the folds and attendant shades of which give an

* Thompson's Seasons, Winter.

an instantaneous idea of real silk, in a tumbled state, so that you could fancy you were able to grasp it in the hand. Other monuments in the church are worthy of note; but lose much of their effect, by the surpassing excellence of the two described.

The churchyard affords epitaphs of varied elegiac merit; and if viewed with the discriminating eye of the "Spectator," would afford matter for the employ of critical acumen, on the moral tendency of such a commemorative department of literature.

The following reminds the reader of that cautious aversion of alluding to death, arising from the dread of oblivion, excited by the gloom-inspiring doctrine, future annihilation; and that suggested the idea of substituting *virit* for *obiit*: informing you, the person lived, but not that he died.

"Here lies *John Shore*
I say no more
Who was alive
In sixty five.
October 9th."

Another is an instance of that misapplication of wit, which exhibits its ebullitions in pun, or the still more degraded *conundrum*.

"Here lies a churchwarden
A choyce flower in that garden,
Joseph Critcheley by name
Who lived in good fame;
Being gone to his rest,
Without doubt he is blest
Died 10th of March, 1673-4.

A third, on a plain altar tomb, while it describes an uncommon diversity of fortune, attending an individual, contains a modest confession, and breathes the proper moral sentiment of a Memento mori.

"Born in America, in Europe bred,
In Afric travelled, and in Asia wed;
Where long he liv'd and thriv'd, at London dead.

Much good, some ill he did; so hope all's even,
And that his soul, through *Mercy's*, gone to heaven.
You that survive and read this tale, take care,
For this most certain exit to prepare.
Where blest in peace the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the silent dust."

This person here interred was *Elihu Yale, Esq.* a native of America, who went out as an adventurer to the East Indies; and found his speculation, if not answer his most sanguine wishes, far exceed the probabilities of advancement in his favour. He obtained the presidency of Madras, appears to have ruled the colony with most oppressive authority. An anecdote, illustrative of his arbitrary disposition, is recorded in a way, arising from that authenticity, which gives it irrefragable proof. His groom, having rode out a favourite horse, two or three days, for the purposes of airing, and exercise, without first obtaining leave to authorize his so doing, the governor caused him peremptorily to be hanged up, for daring to use such a supposed discretionary power. For this murder he was ordered to return to England, and having been tried for the crime, by some undetected oeillet of the law, he escaped the punishment of death; and only suffered, by a heavy pecuniary fine*. He still lived, and died in the year 1724.

Wrexham is noted for one of those annual fairs, that used to be general through the kingdom, anterior to the system of great trading houses employing agents, termed *riders*, for the purpose of extending and facilitating trade, by a circuitous solicitation of orders. It is frequented not only by persons in the adjacent districts, but by traders from divers, and far distant parts of the kingdom. The commodities brought by the Welsh, are flannels of all staple, and various linens, linsey-woolseys, coarse linens, horses, sheep, and black cattle. The remote dealers, bring Irish linens, Yorkshire, and other woollen cloths, with Manchester, Sheffield, and Birmingham goods in all

* Harris's collection of Voyages and Travels, Vol. I. p. 917.

all their ramified varieties. Two squares, or areas, are fitted up with booths, and temporary shops, for the accommodation of sale; and at this public mart, which commences March the twenty-third, and continues for nine days inclusive, the vendition of articles is usually very great.

The poetic muse has decidedly chosen Cambria, as one of her favoured spots; and the patroness of musical genius has not been backward in conferring her gifts on the Cymri. The Welsh have been unrivalled on their native instrument, the harp; and possessed of a peculiarly organised ear for harmony, whenever they apply that faculty on any other instrument, they quickly evince, from their mode of performing, that it is only to practice, for a time, to extort admiration by superior excellence.

Mr. Edward Randles, organist of Wrexham, though blind, is an excellent performer on the organ, not an usual appendage to churches in the principality. For attaining perfection on the harp, he became a pupil of the celebrated Parry, harper to the late sir Watkin Williams Wynn; and he not only caught the energetic style of his master, but gave in his vibrating touches, additional elegance and grace: so as to be justly ranked among the number of the first performers on that delightful instrument in the kingdom.

Miss Elizabeth Randles, daughter of the above performer, is one of those juvenile prodigies, that occasionally dart into early notice, and confound all the maxims of the schools, with regard to the platform-system of education; that exhibits knowledge as nothing but the effect of regular learning. When sixteen months old, she evinced not only a predisposition for music, but displayed ability in strong musical powers. At that early period, she is said to have been able to play, by ear on the piano-forte, the treble of two well-known tunes, "The blue bells of Scotland," and "Charley over the water." A few months afterward, she was heard to play in a surprising manner, as to accuracy, several common Welsh airs. At the age of *two years*, in 1800, she was ushered into public notice,

and rapidly continuing to improve the extraordinary gift of nature, when but *three years and a half old*, she had the honour of performing before the king, and royal family: on which occasion his majesty presented her with a hundred guineas. At Cumberland gardens a public breakfast was given, for her benefit, under the august patronage of the prince of Wales, sir Watkin Williams Wynn, lady Dungannon, and other persons of distinction. Arrived at the age of *six* years, this extraordinary child could play the most complicated music produced by the scientific composers; and sing any thing laid before her at first sight. During the years 1807 and 1808, her friends conducted her on a musical tour, through most of the English counties, where she was greatly admired, and liberally patronised. In the month of June of the latter year, she again performed publicly, in London, under the auspices of the prince of Wales, and the marchioness of Downshire, at the concert rooms Hanover square; where she excited the astonishment of both professors and amateurs. Retired, like the young Roscius, as a deluded boy from Scotland was called, she has wisely been advised to acquire by her own prowess, what patronage, however liberal, cannot give. Lately she has applied her abilities to the harp, and doubtless will soon be as equal to perform on that instrument, as the piano forte*.

The vicinity of Wrexham has from local attractions, or manorial circumstances, been famed of yore for its numerous seats, and genteel residents. Honest Churchyard, though not devoid of patriotic flattery, is lavish in praise of Maelor, in this respect.

" Nere Wricksam dwels of gentlemen good store,
Of calling such, as are right well to live:
By market towne, I have not seene no more,
In such small roume, that auncient armes doe give.
They are the joye and gladness of the poore,
That dayly feedes, the hungrie at their doore:

In

* North Wales Gazette, October 25, 1810.

In any style where gentlemen are found
Some house is kept, and bountie doth abound*."

The picture cannot now be realized, in all its parts; yet still few country towns can equal this, as respects stately houses; in addition to those, previously described, may be mentioned CADWGAN HALL, SONTLEY HOUSE, BERSHAM LODGE, and TREVALIN HALL.

ACTON the seat of *sir Foster Cunliffe bart.* was formerly the property of the *Jefferies* family, and here was born that opprobrium jurisconsultum.

GEORGE JEFFRIES, lord chancellor of England, better known under the contemptuous designation, *judge Jefferies*. He never received an academic education, but from the free-school at Shrewsbury, was removed to Westminster, and thence entered of the Inner temple. A singular circumstance, not generally noticed in the early debut of this man is, that he *was never regularly called to the bar;* but, as a soi-disant lawyer, during the plague in London, when many regularly admitted barristers were, either incapacitated, or indisposed to act; he with that effrontery, which unfortunately finds its way for want of equal effort, in its proper, but not adequate resistance; put on a *Law-gown*; and having bedizoned his head in a proper significant wig, he attended the assizes at Kingston; and afterwards pleaded, without any notice having been taken of the anormal obtrusion. Possessed of first rate abilities, and having acquired by great industry, a very competent knowledge of his profession, his eloquence obtained for him the notice of the court; and in 1680 he was appointed chief justice of Chester; and to the office of a Welsh judge, he had the additional honour of ranking as a baronet in the following year. After this elevation, he rose by rapid strides, and obtained the highest legal honours; but from misconduct, he as rapidly, and more justly fell. His political subserviency to a corrupt court, gave

* Worthines of Wales, p. 105.

gave a wrong bias to a mind, that, if not misguided, might have been an honour to his country, and a pattern to mankind: for he was a man of the first rate abilities, of great eminence in his profession, but of no principle; and therefore his heart would connive at the worst actions, and his hand was equally prompt, when money, favour, or affection, were in view, to execute the most unwarrantable purposes. His vicious infatuation in this respect was conspicuous, from the proceedings in the case of *Cornish*. On which occasion, his relation, sir Hugh Trevor, then attorney-general, being consulted by the sovereign, and his cabinet ministers, as to the legality of the mode, in which the prosecution was to be conducted, had sufficient public virtue to avow, in the presence of the chancellor, that, if he pursued that unfortunate man to execution, it would be no better than *murder*. But his advice was not taken. The cruelties of Jefferies on the western circuit, when he was commissioned to use a sanguinary discretion, by 'stretching a point beyond the law,' for the purpose of taking vengeance on the deluded followers of the duke of Monmouth, were so excessive, as to excite universal hatred; and shortly after to produce national retaliation.

Yet so bigotted, and so blind was the monarch, and his near advisers, that the measures pursued by Jefferies, gave great satisfaction; and the king with the malicious wit of a Nero, humorously termed it *Jefferies' campaign**. He was notorious for that species of eloquence, called *brow-beating* a *witness* and *gagging* an *advocate*. Provoked at the prudent taciturnity of one witness, he exclaimed "Look thee, if thou canst not comprehend what I mean, I will repeat it again, for thou shalt see what countryman I am, by my telling my story over twice: therefore I ask thee once again, &c." 'Hold your tongue,' said he one day to a counsel, who seemed forward in magnifying his success by unravelling a mazy subject, and untying a knotty point in a cause; 'you are too troublesome; you are

* See more in Toulmin's History of the town of Taunton.

are exactly like a hen, if you lay an egg, you must cackle over it.' The natural irritability of his character was increased by the acquisition of power, and exacerbated by habitual intemperance. It is said, he was extremely partial to the bottle, and so little decorous on such occasions; that one day having drank to excess with the lord treasurer, and others, belonging to the cabinet, they were about going to strip: and would have mounted the elevated station of a sign-post, had they not been prevented for the purpose of ostentatiously drinking the king's health. His judicial conduct in chancery has however received, perhaps, merited commendation, and the able Reports, published under the title of *Vernon's*, were the work of Jefferies: his own name being too unpopular for obtaining them, either perusal or sale. Having strenuously supported the worst measures of an arbitrary and infatuated court, his conduct became so obnoxious to the nation at large, that when James went over to Ireland, previous to his abdicating the throne, Jefferies, dreading the effects of popular rage, attempted to quit the kingdom in the disguise of a *sailor*, but was defeated in his purpose, by being recognised while drinking in an ale cellar at Wapping. Thus blown upon, a mob quickly assembled, rushed into the apartment, seized the *incognito* and took him up before the lord mayor, who recommended him to the notice of the lords of council, by whom he was committed to the tower; where he prematurely died on the 18th of April, 1689; and by dissolution was preserved from the infamy of a public execution*. It has been stated, that 'he was buried privately in the tower, by a mandate from the king to his relations; but the body was removed to Aldermanbury, where last year, 1810, the coffin was found, and identified to be his, by persons employed for repairing and beautifying the church.

Acton Hall is a good mansion, situated upon an elevated lawn, which lately has been considerably enlarged and modernised by the present worthy proprietor, under whose judgment

* Reresby's Memoirs, p. 231.

ment the grounds have been more tastefully laid out, and by some woodland decorations greatly embellished. The views over Wrexham are extensive and richly diversified, in which the steeple forms no trivial object.

GRESFORD, or *Croes-ffordd*, the road of the cross, a small village, about three miles from Wrexham, is situated upon a rising ground, in a narrow valley, that opening into the vast expanse of the vale-royal of Cheshire, exhibits views of uncommon elegance.

The church, built in the same period with that of Wrexham, is a handsome structure, though not decorated, yet the upper part of the steeple is ornamented with figures of the apostles; and on one side is a niche, containing a statue, representative of the monarch in whose reign it was erected. This edifice, constructed of freestone, is in length one hundred and twenty three feet, by near sixty in breadth; and the height of the tower ninety. The east window, measuring fourteen feet by twenty-one, was once enriched with groupes of figures, in stained glass, emblematic of several saints, in supposed conference with the Virgin Mary, whose history also adorns the finely executed east window of the north aisle: The interior consisting of a nave, side aisles, and chancel, is fitted up in a remarkably decent manner; and a circumstance, because rather singular, will strike the visitor, while admiring the laudable neatness in which the place is kept, with a serio-ludicrous idea; from seeing family distinction displayed in the humblest efforts of heraldic pomp, different arms emblazoned on the respective pew doors. Here are several ancient and modern monuments. In the north aile is a recumbent figure, armed in coat of mail, covered with a surtout, round helmet, with the feet resting upon a lion couchant, and a lion rampant on the shield, having an inscription round the verge,

HIC JACET MADOC AP LLEWELIN AP GRUFF, OBIIT. 1331.

Some mural emblems commemorate the *Trevors of Trevalin*, among

among which, one erected by *Sir Richard Trevor*, 1638, in the eightieth year of his age, represents the knight himself, clad in armour, kneeling; and, in a similar supplicating posture, his wife, Catherine, by the side: to whose memory, as the inscription states, the monument was raised. He was a distinguished military character, served many years in the Irish war, and was appointed governor of Newry and the counties of Down and Armagh; chief counsellor of the Marches, and Vice Admiral of North Wales: who lived 'to see, *his children's children's children*.'

A chaste mural monument, consists of a well executed bust, the likeness of *John Madocks, Esq.* uncle of the present Mr. Madocks, of Fron-Yew, who died September the 23d, 1794. The artist, ROGERSON, evidently had more meritorious claims, than ever appear in the annals of the fine arts, to have been generally admitted, or liberally answered.

In the chancel, one sacred to the memory of *John Parry, Esq.* who died October 26, 1797, aged seventy-three, evince the superior powers of a WESTMACOTT. This unique piece of commemorative sculpture, possesses peculiar points of elegance. A half cylindrical column, of Parian white marble, imitative of a Roman sepulchral altar, is surmounted by an oval, or rather tortoise-shaped urn of the same, and on the plinth is represented the figure of a beautiful little boy, in a sitting attitude, pensively reclining his head on his right hand: with his eyes bleared, from weeping, and his lips apparently opening with grief, seem to say, Ah!; he's gone!!: The *font* exhibits a curious piece of carving and elaborate design. The form is octagonal, and placed on an octangular pedestal. The fascets are decorated with figures, in high relievo, on one is represented the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus; on a second, St. Peter; on a third, a griffin; on a fourth, Abraham, with a staff in his hand, 'sojourning not knowing whither he went;' and those on the remaining sides, are too much mutilated to ascertain their designation.

In the church yard, ranging within the verge of the walls,

are nineteen immense yew trees, and one considerably divided in its branches, apparently by the ramifications, forms as many large and distinct trees. The *yew* seems to be a very general ornamental appendage to the plantations in cemeteries; but those of Wales are peculiarly distinguishable for this kind of sombre accompaniment. Few but have one, or more, and some, as in this case, have a venerable profusion.

What was the original design of planting these in burial grounds, or the rationale of adopting this, in preference to other trees deciduous, or evergreen, are questions, that have generated much investigation, and considerably baffled antiquarian research. Various conjectures have been started, and positive assertions made, tending to bring remote inquiry, founded upon existing remains into contempt; and expose to unjustifiable ridicule, a science of all others the most useful to man, the philosophy of national customs and local manners; most useful because it leads him to an acquaintance with himself. An author, who forced himself into some publicity, and obtained, if not eminence, notoriety; states, they were planted for the use of *archers*, as a place well known, and fenced from cattle that their growth might not be prevented.* This remark, were it not connected with a valuable portion of legislative history, would be unworthy of even cursory notice: for it might be asked, are not all well-conducted plantations protected from cattle by fences? But most animals have an aversion to the smell of this plant; and if they should so far transgress the laws of instinct, under the pressure of necessity, as to nibble its branches, they generally become victims to the baleful effects. Still the question reverts, why were they planted in these *sacred* places? It is an indigenous plant† of the island, and nature has not been niggardly to this portion of it; for these trees are found in almost all the woods of North Wales: they even grow to

* Trusler's Chronology.

† This has been ascertained as a fact, by Mr. de la Boyne, in a paper, published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. See Motte's Abridgement, Vol. II.

to an immense size, out of the fissures of rocks and crags, and more are found flourishing together, than, perhaps may be included in the sum total of all the cemeteries in Wales.

The first question arising out of multifarious and accumulated dissertation on the subject, is, were they planted on consecrated ground, for the purpose of furnishing wood, to make *bow-staves?* Among the various clauses contained in the statutes, enacted for the encouragement of archery, though they enter into minute particulars, relative to the arms employed in it; yet no injunctions are found for the specific purpose of making plantations of yew. On the contrary, the legislature, on petitions being presented of the scarcity and consequent high price of bow-staves, instead of suggesting the idea of preventing the evil complained of in future, looked only to the removal of the temporary grievance, by informing the merchants, trading to certain parts of the globe, to import materials, necessary for manufacturing bows and arrows, from abroad. An act, passed in the twelfth year of Edward the fourth, after reciting, by an address from the Commons-house, the King having been apprised of the great want and dearness of bow-staves, which had occasioned such detriment to archery, that the practice was in danger of being lost; proceeds thus to ordain, 'every merchant stranger, that shall convey into this land any merchandize of the city, or country of Venice, or of any other city, town, or country, from whence any such bow-staves have been before this time brought, shall bring at the same time *four bow-staves* for every ton of such merchandize; on pain of forfeiture to the King of six shillings and eight-pence, for every bow-staff short.' By another statute, enacted in the first year of Richard the third, upon a complaint made by the trade, it appears, that, 'in times past, good and able stuff of bow staves had been brought into this realm, as well by English merchants, as strangers; whereby the inhabitants, bowyers, might competently live upon such stuff, which they bought at forty shillings the hundred, or forty-six shillings and eight-pence at the most.' But, from 'a seditious confederacy of the Lombards,'

whose ships then frequented English ports, the price, by the unwarrantable conspiracy, rose to the enormous price of eight pounds per hundred: so that in a short time, had the scheme of monopoly been allowed to continue its influence on the yew timber market, 'this realm, as stated in the act, was likely to fail, as well of stuff of artillery, as workmen thereof:' and it was therefore ordained, 'that no merchant of Venice, nor other, which used to repair unto this realm with merchandizes of those parts, should bring into this realm any such merchandizes, unless he bring at the same time *ten bow-staves*, good and able stuff, with every butt of Malmsey, and withe very butt of tire, on forfeiture of thirteen shillings and eight-pence, for every butt of such wines; and for every bow-staff short.' So recently as the reign of Elizabeth, the practice of archery was considered one mode of national defence; for the act passed in the reign of Edward the fourth, above alluded to, was by a royal mandate, ordered to be put into strict execution. 'All merchants, strangers, using to bring wares into this realm from the eastern countries, as well as from the Hanse-towns, should thenceforth be comprised and meant, under the name of such merchants,' as were designated to be bound by the aforesaid enactments.

From these documents, it appears, this country depended on importation, to supply staves for the manufactories of bows; and the most valuable articles in this branch of armoury were produced from foreign timber. For it results from the comparative prices stated in the "Act for Bowyers," passed in the eighth year of Elizabeth, that English yew, for the purpose of bow-making, was of an inferior quality, and of less value. The maximum, fixed by virtue of the statute, was as follows: viz.

"Bows meet for men's shooting, being *outlandish-yew*, of best sort, were to bear no greater price than 6s. 8d. each.

Bows meet for men's shooting, of second sort, 3s. 4d.

Bows of a coarser sort, called *livery bows*, 2s.

Bows of *English yew*, 2s."

Thus our brave bow men, once the strength and the glory

of the nation, and the terror of its enemies, prior to the invention of gunpowder, depended upon foreign materials, to furnish them with the requisite weapons for assault and defence; because bows of English yew were only adequate in value to the most inferior of those, made of imported yew. The former seem to have been used for amusement, or practising for the field, and not to be relied on in the day of battle. Therefore to enable the warrior to achieve deeds of valour against enemies, it is evidently conclusive, yews in churchyards were not planted.

Were they then set in such situations to protect ecclesiastical buildings from the desolating effects of furious storms? By a statute, passed in the thirteenth year of Edward the First, for ascertaining and settling the property of timber in churchyards, it sets forth, that trees were often planted to 'defend the force of the wind from hurting the church.' The tardy growth, however, of yews would so ill accord with this intention, as effectually to preclude their adoption for the purpose. Besides, from the tenour of the act, the remark only refers to trees in general; and more especially to such, whose timber was applicable to the occasional necessary repairs of the edifice; the following of which, therefore, was by a clause inserted immediately following, prohibited, except for the specific purposes therein stated.

An intelligent correspondent with the Gentleman's Magazine*, in his endeavours to account for the usage of *palm-bearing*, remarks, 'that in this country there was formerly a procession, as in Catholic countries there still is, on Palm Sunday, in memory of the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, where branches of palms were strewed in his way, and hosannas shouted to his glorious appearance, as predicted by the prophet; and that there is historic authority for asserting, that, what are denominated *palms*, were generally borne on this occasion, so late as the reign of Edward the sixth. And

* Vol. XLIX.

though, as a religious rite, the practice has subsequently been discontinued; yet traditionary superstition still perpetuates the ludicrous custom. An ancient manuscript states, that the olive, which "berith greene leves," not being a tree indigenous to this country, *palm* was used to be carried in its stead. From these intimations, he concludes, it is evident, something under the designation of *palm* was carried in procession on Palm Sunday; which happening, according to the regulations of the Rubric, sometime between the fifteenth of March, and the eighteenth of April, a season of the year when scarcely any deciduous trees have expanded their buds into leaf; evergreens were selected for the purpose. And from the fact, that yew trees, flourishing in some churchyards of the eastern division of Kent, are to the present day *called* palms, he considers it highly probable, that the palms were the branches of this species of plants; which are not only always green, but about this time of the year, usually in full bloom. Upon this supposition the few trees generally found in cemeteries would be amply sufficient, to furnish a supply for ostentatious displays on such occasions.

From the penal regulations, contained in the grand code of political institutes, collected under the prudent legislature Hywel Dda, a distinction is made between the commutative value of yews growing spontaneously, and those planted in consecrated ground. Under the section, denominated "*O werth y gwydd y tractha hyn*," that treats on the legal regulated prices of trees, the *Taxus sylvestris* was estimated at fifteen denarii, while the *Taxus sancti* was rated at one pound. The Taxus sancti were those yews planted in churchyards, and dedicated, or reputed to be so, like the church, to some particular saint, as *Dubritius, Teilo,* &c. *

This does not account, however, though it respects the place of

* Leges Wallicæ, 262, where is the following illustrative note, (*Sancti*) Sancto nempe alicui dedicata, Dubritio v. gr. vel Teliao, quales apud Wallos in Cœmeteriis etiamnum frequentes visuntur.

of planting, for the selection of the particular kind of tree. "Men," says Sir Thomas Browne *, "have lost their reason in nothing so much as their religion, wherein stones and clouts make martyrs; and since the religion of one seems madness to another, to afford an account, or rational of old rites requires no rigid reader; that they kindled the pyre aversely, or turning their face from it, was an handsome symbole of unwilling ministration; that they washed their bones with wine and milk, that the mother wrapped them in linen, and dried them in her bosom, the first fostering part, and place of their nourishment; that they opened their eyes towards heaven before they kindled the fire, as the place of their hopes or original, were no improper ceremonies; their last valediction †, thrice uttered by the attendants, was also very solemn, and somewhat answered by Christians, who thought it too little, if they threw not the earth thrice upon the interred body. That in strewing their tombs the Romans affected the rose, the Greeks amaranthus and myrtle; that the funerall pyre consisted of sweet fuell, cypresse, firre, larix, yew, and trees perpetually verdant, lay silent expressions of their surviving hopes: wherein Christians which deck their coffins with bays have found a more elegant embleme. For that he seeming dead, will restore itself from the root, and its dry and exuccous leaves resume their verdure again; which, if we mistake not, we have also observed in fures. Whether the planting of yewe in churchyards, hold not its originall from ancient funerall rites, or, *as an emblem of the Resurrection*, from its perpetual verdure, may also admit conjecture."

The conjecture was not only admissible, but deducible from analogy; the custom being established by the pages of history. The use of emblems, illustrative of religious credence was established in the early ages of the world. From the Jewish nation the custom was derived, and adopted by various de-

 scriptions

* "Hydriotaphia," p. 55,

† "Vale! vale! vale! nos te ordi quo natura permittet, sequemur."

scriptions of Pagans, who in some instances appear to have applied such occult representations to the miserable doctrine of annihilation *. In opposition to which, it is stated, Christians selected ivy, laurel, and other evergreens, to indicate, that though the body was laid low in dust, it would be revivified; and notwithstanding the persons interred had undergone a temporary change, they would rise again and receive a verdure which seasons could not affect; but for ever flourish in the paradise of God †.

Gresford Lodge is a low, but exceeding neat freestone mansion, with a colonaded façade situated in that part of the valley, through which flows the river Alun, hastening to meet the Dee. A handsome bridge of three arches, and a mill at a small distance below, contribute to add a diversifying effect to the well wooded grounds. This is the residence of *Mrs. Parry*, relict of the late *J. Parry, Esq.*

At the extremity of the elevated ridge, impending over the vale of Gresford, a kind of peninsulated field, called the *Rofts*, perhaps from *Rhwif*, as being a commanding situation, is the site of an ancient British post, defended by treble fossa and valla, across the narrow neck of land, that connects it with the champaign country. On the [illegible] facing Cheshire it had several lines of defence, now levelled by the plough; and two others were inaccessible from declivity. An artificial mount at one of the angles had probably a castelet, or exploratory tower; for, as this was one of the strongholds, opposite the Saxon frontier, it must have been an important station.

Upper Gwersilt Hall, the seat of *Mr. Atherston*, has the circumjacent grounds tastefully laid out, the walks in the lower part

* See the elegant Greek Idyllium of Bion by Moschus.

† "Hedera quoque, vel laurus et hujusmodi, quæ semper servant virorem in sarcophago corpora substernentur, ad significandum quod qui moriuntur in Christo, vivere nec desinunt. Nam licet mundo moriuntur secundum corpus, tamen secundum animam, vivunt & reviviscunt Deo."

Durandi Rituale, Lib. VII. c. 35.

part, on the margin of the Alun, being highly romantic; and the views obtained from the higher lawn embracing the mountains in the vicinity of Hope, Caergwrle Castle, &c. peculiarly beautiful. This seat is deserving notice, as having been the residence of a distinguished royalist, in the time of Charles the first; and who, on the decollation of that ill-fated monarch, was necessitated to suffer voluntary banishment. *Colonel Robinson* on the occasion, left his house, from neglect, arising out of laudable endeavours, in a state of dilapidation; but on obtaining repossession, after the restoration of Charles the second, he had the pleasures and advantage which come out of unjust seisin, reversionary compensating livery. The edifice that was in a ruinous condition, had by the usurping possessor been rebuilt, and fitted up in a comfortable manner for, as it happened, the ousted owner of the estate. By his epitaph on a mural monument in Gresford church, it appears, he quitted this life, March 15, A. D. MDCLXXX. In this unjustifiable mode of attempting to give posthumous fame, he is, by the epigraph, "qui tribunus CAROLI MARTYRIS," pourtrayed in that caricaturing style, which stains the character of the most well meaning persons, by political folly.

Another patriot, equally distinguished by his zeal and exertions in the royal cause, *Jeffery Shakerly*, afterwards knighted, possessed the LOWER GWERSILT; who during the civil wars had the command of a regiment of cavalry. And though his prowess has not been emblazoned in the historical details of our civil commotions at that period, yet from manuscript documents, it appears he was engaged for years in the service, as an equestrian colonel; and took a very distinguished part in actions of the most decisive nature, occurring in those unauspicious times. While in the service he contracted a lasting friendship with Colonel Robinson, which induced him, for the sake of mutual access, and to be near his fellow soldier, to purchase this estate, in lieu of one he had been obliged in support of loyalty, to part with, in the county of Kent. His modest, and consequently greater merits, should not be forgotten;

they will ever be established, and descend to posterity by his judicious conduct, previous to the battle of *Rowton Heath*.

The statement, forming an historic elucidation, pleasing in one point of view, and painful in another, is thus given by his son.

"The heath upon which Sir Marmaduke Langdale was drawn up, carries the name of Rowton Heath; a mile beyond which, in the London road from Chester, is another heath, called Hatton Heath. The order which Sir Marmaduke had received from the king, was only to beat Poyntz back. Sir Marmaduke performed the same effectually; for having marched his men over Holt Bridge undiscovered by the enemy, who had taken the out-works and suburbs of the city on the east side thereof, and Poyntz coming in a marching posture along the narrow lane between Hatton Heath and Rowton Heath, Sir Marmaduke having lined the hedges, fell upon him, and killed a great many of his men; and having so done, ordered Colonel Shakerly, who was best acquainted with that country, to get the next way he could to the king (who lodged then at Sir Francis Gamull's house, in Chester) and acquaint him, that he had obeyed his orders in beating Poyntz back, and to know his majesty's further pleasure. The colonel executed his orders with better speed than could be expected; for he gallopped directly to the river Dee, under Huntington House, got a wooden tub (used for slaughtering swine) and a batting-staff (used for batting of coarse linen) for an oar, put a servant into the tub with him, and in this desperate manner swam over the river, his horse swimming by him (for the banks were there very steep, and the river very deep) ordered his servant to stay there with the tub for his return, and was with the king in little more than a quarter of an hour after he had left Sir Marmaduke, and acquainted the king that if his majesty pleased to command further orders to Sir Marmaduke, he would engage to deliver them in a quarter of an hour; and told the king of the expeditious method he had taken, which saved him the going nine or ten miles about, by Holt Bridge (for the boats at Eaton were then made useless; but such delays were used by some

about

about the king, that no orders were sent, nor any sally made out of the city by the King's party, till past three o'clock in the afternoon, which was full six hours after Poyntz had been beaten back; and so Poyntz having all that time for his men to recover the fright they had been put into in the morning, Poyntz rallied his forces, and with the help of the Parliament forces who came out of the suburbs of the city to his assistance, (upon whom the king's party in the city might then successfully have fallen) put all those of the king's to the rout, which was the loss of the king's horse, and of his design to join Montross, in Scotland, who was then understood to be in a good condition.

"This is what my father, the said Colonel Shakerley (afterwards Sir Geoffrey Shakerley), hath often declared in my hearing; and since no mention is made of him, in all this history,* (though he faithfully served the king in all the wars, was personally engaged in almost all the field battles for the king, sold part of his estate to support that service, and was for many years sequestered of all the rest). I thought it my duty, as his eldest son and heir, to do that justice to his memory, to insert this here, under my hand, that it may be remembered to posterity.

"PETER SHAKERLEY."†

HOLT.

Though now an inconsiderable village, was anciently a town of some notoriety. Camden supposes, it derived the ancient name of CASTRUM LEONIS, 'from the *Legio vicesima victrix*, which kept garrison a little higher up on the other side of the Dee.' The military station, an advanced post of the Roman troops, was

* Meaning Clarendon's History of the Rebellion; this account being written by Peter Shakerley, esq. on one of the blank leaves.

† As quoted in Appendix IV. to Pennant's Welsh Tours.

s near FARNDON, a village in Cheshire,* from which Holt is separated by the above-mentioned river, and over it a communication is formed, by a bridge of ten arches, which is a very old and curious structure, having been erected in the year 1345; as appears by an inscription preserved, till a recent date, on a stone over the portion, termed the *lady's arch.* This fascinating appellation, it is to be apprehended, did not arise from those beneficent actions suggested by the benevolence, and promoted by the influence of the virtuous part of the fair-sex. From a manuscript account, preserved in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, it appears the children of the chieftain, committed to the care of the lords, Warren and Mortimer, as previously remarked, were drowned under Holt bridge; those noblemen thus quickly getting rid of their political charge; and Emma, the mother, relict-lady of Gryffydd, is evidently implicated in the infamous transaction. The event had been variously represented by the specious gloss of historical embellishment; and had it not been for this most invaluable document, the fable of the two *young fairies,* that at certain times of the year were visible on moon-light nights, under the Lady's arch, the real foundation of the melancholy fact, perhaps would never have transpired.

This place owes its origin to the natural situation, combined with existing circumstances: the tide river, on whose margin it stands, affording *facility* of approach, and being long a military

* This, which though politically attached to the Hundred of Broxton, in the adjacent English county, Cheshire, is one of those topographical anomalies, that has perplexed many inquirers; but has by a modern antiquary met with essaying elucidation. Archdeacon Plymley, in his Agricultural account of Salop, endeavours to assign a reason for such ecclesiastical divisions; and supposes they originated from the circumstance of manorial lords, and other persons of large landed property, erecting places of worship, for the accommodation of their own families and their dependant tenantry. Like the village, included within the manor of Merford, in Denbighshire; but by an act of Parliament in the reign of Henry the eighth, was made a parcel and part, belonging to the county of Flint.

military post, which formed an important object between the different contending parties.

Holt Castle, the miserable remains of which now cease to furnish a picturesque representation, like that of Ruthin, was built of red-coloured sandstone, quarried in the immediate vicinity. A survey, taken by the observant Norden in the year 1620*, at which period the building seems to have been intire, will aid inquiry, as to the form of this once curious structure. The fortress, according to this delineation, was of a pentangular shape, having a bastion tower at each angle: four were circular, and the one, facing the river square. The entrance was by a drawbridge, thrown across a deep moat, communicating with a gateway, over which was a square tower, strengthened by portcullises and machicolated arrangements. These were the more essential, because the ground not being extensive, and nearly level with the surface, on which the town stands, it must from those have derived its principal defence. The site seems to have been judiciously isolated on three sides, by the chasm, economically produced in quarrying stone for the building. On the fourth, the Dee formed a natural barrier, into which a jetty-work was advanced, as a quay, for affording and facilitating supplies, to furnish the garrison. But so small a portion even of the foundations are left, that it would be impossible, had it not been owing to the above ingenious drawing, and description, to have formed any idea of its ancient strength†.

This fortress, though now exhibiting little attractive in its reliques, or site, has been a building of considerable note as a structure, and witnessed scenes of no common importance.

> Now must I turne to my discourse agayne,
> I Wricksam leave, and pen out further place;
> So if my muse, were now in pleasant vayne,
> *Holt Castle* should, from verse receive some grace:

The

* Harleian MSS. preserved in the British Museum.

† From this manuscript of Norden's, engravings of the ground-plan and elevation are given in Volume I. of Pennant's Welsh Tours.

The seate is fine, and trimly buylt about
With lodgings fayre and goodly roumes throughout,
Strong vaults and caves, and many an old device,
That in our daies, are held of worthie price*."

The foundation was commenced by the *earl Warren*, whose infamy, respecting a most sacred trust, has already been described; but he dying shortly after; the completion of the work devolved on his son. The authors of the Britannia, therefore, must have been misinformed, or they would not have stated merely, that it "is supposed to have been repaired more lately by sir William Stanley, and formerly by John earl Warren, who being guardian, &c.†"

In the ninth year of Edward the second, John earl Warren, grandson of the founder, having no issue, presented this castle with Dinas Bran, by a deed of gift, to the king. Shortly after being divorced from his wife, and attaching himself to a lady, named *Matilda* alias *Maud de Nereford*, the earl obtained a regrant of them to himself and his chere amie, with remainders to his illegitimate children and their heirs, assigns, &c. Matilda having been the last heritable survivor, the property, at her death, in the succeeding reign, reverted to the crown. Subsequently it was bestowed on Edward Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, who had married the sister of the late owner, earl Warren. In the reign of Richard the second, by the attainder of Richard earl of Arundel, it again was alienated, and the monarch to whom the forfeiture was made, found it necessary, while upon his inauspicious Irish expedition, to make this a kind of exchequer extraordinary; having lodged, for the purpose of security, a hundred thousand marks in coin, and jewels amounting in comparative estimation, an equivalent to two hundred thousand‡; all which fell into the hands of the treacherous Bolingbroke, when the fortress, in 1399, surrendered previous to

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales, p. 107.
† Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 119.
‡ Holingshead's Chron. Vol. II. p. 500.

to the deposition of that ill-fated king. By the resanguification, or restoration in blood, of the former owner, the castle came into possession of his son; from whose issue, by matrimonial right, it descended to William Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenny. In the reign of Henry the seventh, the place was revested in the crown; whence by royal grant, it was transferred to sir William Stanley, who made considerable alterations, and reparations, at a great expence; but on the attainder and execution of the knight, previously noticed, the King, not only resumed the seigniory; but seized upon all sir William's property, live stock, goods, and chattels: on which occasion, exclusive of many valuable jewels, the rapacious monarch found in gold and silver coin, the value of forty thousand marks.

The virtues of this Prince, who under pretence of stepping to the throne over usurpation, monopolized in a manner the rights of his subjects, gave to what is still considered an unrivalled constitution, a tone of arbitrary extension, which, after the line of power had been stretched through a few more reigns, snapped in the time of Charles the first.

Arbitrary power originates a variety of evils: one of which, and not the least, is, *court flattery*, an amusing specimen of which, is afforded by sir John Dodridge*, who is represented in Prince's "Worthies of Devon," both as a great, and a good man. Observing that Richard, duke of Gloucester, 'the tyrant and stain of the English story, who usurped the kingdom by the name of Richard the third, and became king; as our records of law witness, *de facto, sed non de jure*' proceeds to remark, "But for that the prosperity of the wicked is but as the flourishing of a green tree, which whilst a man passes by, is blasted dead at the roots, and his place knoweth it no more. So shortly afterwards God raised up Henry earl of Richmond, the

* This "Historical account of the ancient and modern state of the principality of Wales, was dedicated to the high and mighty James the first, the author's *dread sovereign and liege lord.*

certain portion of it*, was long designated, under the appellation of *Tegangle*; or Teigengle; a term that has been supposed to mean *Fair England*; but which ludicrous interpretation by judicious writers, has been properly abandoned. It is a name far anterior to the time, the English had a knowledge of the country: being derived from Cangi, or *Ceangi*, the denomination of a seat of Britons, not a tribe, that, for want of antiquarians being acquainted with the nature of the thing, and mistaking in the account, occupation for locality; has puzzled many, where to give them, after they bestowed a name, a fixed, or determined habitation; or in what corner of the island to adjucate their territorial station. The learned Baxter† seems the first, who elucidated the subject. According to his opinion, they were a portion of people from each division of Britain, who attended the flocks and herds, and took up their residence for that purpose, in the distant and varied pastures, at different seasons of the year. The Cangi of the Ordovices appear to have had one of their summer residences, adjacent to *Braich y pwll head* in Caernarvonshire; which subsequently by the Roman geographer was, from that circumstance, denominated *Canganorum promontorium*. "The neighbouring *Cornavii* had their Ceangi who wintered in Wiral, and took their summer residence in *Tegangle*; a word to be properly derived, on that account, from

* "Tegangle, comprehends the three modern hundreds of *Colcshill, Prestatyn* and *Rhuddlan*. The name is preserved in the mountainous parts of Whiteford, and of some other parishes to this day, called *mynydd Tegang*." Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 6.

† Glossarium under the word, Cangi. The author of the Britannia seems to have thrown confusion on the subject in his account of the Belgæ*, as Dr. Plot had previously done, in his History of Staffordshire. The laconic, yet depictive description of Tacitus † elucidates the subject: for in detailing the operations of the Roman legions, under Ostorius, he places the army among the Cangi of this district; and then gives an account of their next advanced movement to the district, adjacent to the Hibernian sea.

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. I. p. 83.

† Annales, Lib. XII. cap. 32.

from *teg*, fair; *cang*, the name of the people; and *Lle* a place. To corroborate which, at this very day is a plain in the parish of Caerwys, a part of the old Tegangle, adjoining to this mountain, that still retains the title of *Maes cam havod* or the plain of the hundred summer residences*."

The country, that had long been famed for the noble and arduous stand it made against a power, possessed of the most combined physical strength, and military skill of any European nation; and for the slaughter of professed 'invincible legions,' was at length reduced under the superior prowess of Agricola; who considered it prudent not to venture upon his Caledonian expedition, before he had subdued so formidable, and tremendously retaliating a people, as the Ordovices.

After their subjugation this district was included among the portions of the island, which constituted the regions denominated *Britannia secunda*. But this, unlike the fate of some parts was doomed to form, not a nominal, but a real part of the possessions, acquired by the usurpers.

On the confines of this county and Denbighshire, where the mountains, with a gentle declivity, seem to retire, and afford an easier descent and passage into the vale, the Romans built, at the very entrance, a small city, called *Varis*, which Antoninus places nineteen miles from *Conovium*. "This, without any diminution of its name, is called at this day *Bod-Vari*, which signifies the mansion of Varus; and shews the ruins of a city, on a small hill adjoining, called *Moel y gaer*, i. e. the city hill. What the name signifies is not evident. I have supposed in other places, that *Varia* in the old British signified a pass, and accordingly have interpreted *Durnovaria* and *Isannavaria*, the passage of the water, and Isanna. And the situation of this town confirms my conjecture; it being seated at the only convenient pass through these mountains†." Respecting this etymological reason it has been objected, that Varia does

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p.

† Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 892.

not signify a pass; nor can dubious intrenchments be adduced as conclusive evidence of the previous existence of an ancient city. Both these views will be canvassed in their proper place. The Romans had however left vestiges of their invading steps, and such as evince, that they were long in possession of the country. The fort at Farndon was, if not a station, a strong out-post communicating with the grand head-quarters, of a most celebrated legion at *Deva*, the present Chester; and *Varis* was evidently an important, and for a considerable time, frontier station towards the interior. *Caergwrle*, it has been conjectured with probability, was also another. Numerous remains indicative of Roman habitation, as well as conquest, will be noticed in the places where they were respectively discovered; particularly many fortified heights, still called *caerey*.

In the *Saxon* dynasty, the whole of what constitutes the present county of Flint, was brought under the domination of those strangers, immediately after the surrender of Chester to the arms of Egbert. Its early reduction was facilitated, from the natural circumstances of the country. Open, and devoid of those lofty mountains and inaccessible crags, which characterize many other parts of North Wales, it did not possess equal means of defence against such a potent enemy.

Evident traces of Saxon possession appear in Doomsday book. The lordship of Mostone, as there mentioned, was denominated a plough-land, *terra unius carucæ**, which had, annexed to the soil, four villeyns†, and eight boors, bordarii‡, a wood

* *Caruca* was a term of a team of beasts attached to a plough, for the annual purposes of agriculture; and *carucate*, derived from it, meant so much land as could be managed by the labour of such a portion of physical strength. According to Agard, in his Antiquarian curiosities, a carucate comprised about six of the present statute acres. But Selden judiciously observes, in his "Titles of Honor," that the quantity was indefinite, necessarily arising from local circumstances; varying, according to the nature of the soil, and customs of husbandry in different counties.

† *Villeyns* appear to have ranked among the lower classes of society above the *servi*; yet were like the other regardant, or annexed to the soil and transferable with it, or disposable at the will of the lord.

‡ *Bordarii*, according to Cowel, seem to have been persons in a less servile

wood a league, *leuca**, long and forty perches, *perticatæ*, broad valued at twenty shillings. And all this tract of the present Flintshire, called Englefield, was in possession of Edwin, the last Saxon earl of Mercia.

Nothing, perhaps, is more convincing of the ambition, that leads tyrants, to invade the rights of others, and 'wade through slaughter to a throne,' than conquerors, endeavouring to change the names of the places, of which they have unjustly acquired possession. Thus the Romans metamorphosed the British topographical nomenclature, latinizing the original words, by altering the terminations, and other modes of orthographical distinction, viz *Llyndin*, or *Lundein*, was made *Londinium*; *Dunmwyn*, *Dunmonium*, &c. On the Romans abdicating the country, in most instances, among the independent Britons, the latinized terms were dropped, and the original names again brought into use.

The Saxons, wherever they prevailed, gave intirely new appellations to towns, and villages; and those places that submitted to the foreign yoke, condescended at the same time, to receive a fresh local vocabulary, from the hands of their victors. But here Cambrian tenacity of character was again conspicuous: for though, from Doomsday book it appears several territorial lords, as *Ulbert*, *Elmer*, *Osmer*, &c. &c. with other Saxons, that held lands in this territory, under grants from the earls of Mercia: and who changed the appellation of numerous places; yet they were unable to cancel the ancient: the Welsh constantly resuming the denominations of antiquity. Thus Harwarden is still known by the denomination *Pennard*; Mold by *Wyddgryg*; and Hope by that of *Estyn*.

In the years 1054 and 5, this part of the country by two inroads of the Saxons was laid waste, and nearly depopulated.

 Gryffydd,

condition, each having a *bord* or cottage with a small parcel of land, for which they furnished poultry, fish, and other provisions for the lord's table.

* *Lenca* is undefinable. In some instances it means 1000 paces; in others two miles, &c.

Gryffydd, the reigning prince, having afforded protection to Algar, earl of Chester, who had fled from the vengeance of his sovereign, Edward the confessor, indignant at the insult, thus offered him, sent troops under his general, earl Harold, who carried devastation and dismay by fire and sword, through the district, burning the prince's palace at Ruddlan, and a fleet of ships, that lay upon the coast.*

When the survey, contained in Doomsday book was made, by the command of the Norman conqueror, this territory appears as a parcel of Chester, to which it was considered as an appendage, by right of conquest, and from this circumstance it is stated in old records, the county of Flint, appertaineth to the dignity of the *sword* of Chester. *Hugh Lupus,* who had been promoted to the honour of that earldom, by his uncle, king William the first, and invested with the most unrestricted and unlimited tenure, ever granted by a sovereign to a subject; on doing homage for the beneficiary gift was given power, to hold to him and his heirs, the whole of Cheshire, with the districts of Rhyvonioc as freely '*by the sword,*' as the king held the crown of England†, in Denbighland; and *Englefield,* great part of the present Flintshire; comprising a tract of country of nearly indefineable breadth, extending along the sea shore from the river Mersey to the water of Conway‡.

The district, comprehended between the river Dee, and the vale of Clwyd, was then considered as a parcel of Cheshire, denominated in Doomsday book the hundred of *Atiscros*: and many places still existing, though difficult to ascertain, from the disfiguration of Norman orthography; are described, and their valuation given, under the title of the palatine county.

In the time of Henry the third, for want of issue male, to the then possessor, this county, annexed to the earldom of Chester, was seized upon by the crown; the king bestowing upon the aunts,

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 94.

† "Ita libere ad gladium sicut ipse rex tenebat Angliam et coronam."

‡ Vaughan Brit. Ant. revived, p. 18. And Dodridge's Historical Account, p. 124.

aunts, as coheiresses of John, surnamed *le Scot*, earl of Chester, Anguise, Galway, and Huntingdon, other lands by way of exchange; which arbitrary procedure is accounted for by a curious species of Aulic logic, the unwillingness, entertained by the monarch, that so great a patrimony should be frittered away among spinsters, or *distaffs*, as the record figuratively terms it: "Ne tanta hæreditas inter *colos* diduceretur*."

By the above mentioned monarch, his son Edward, in 1245, was created earl of Chester and Flint†: who afterwards, on the death of his father, ascending the throne, conferred the honour on a favourite, *Simon de Montfort*; by whose attainder it escheated again to the crown. In the subsequent reign, prince Edward, who afterwards became king Edward the third, previous to that event, held the earldom; but on being invested with the executive power, he relinquished the inferior dignity, in favour of his eldest son, Edward, known in English history, as the *black Prince*; which favour was conferred by a charter, dated at Pomfret, the eighteenth of March, in the seventh year of that monarch's reign. By virtue of this deed, the said king granted unto the new-created earl, "the castles of Chester, Beston, Rothlam and Flint, and all his lands there. And also the cantred and lands of Englefield, together with the knight's-fees, advowsons, liberties, franchises, forests, chases, parks, woods, warrens, and other appurtenances thereunto belonging; to have and hold both for himself and his heirs, the kings of England." And by another charter, bearing date, on the nine-

* Dodridge's Hist. Account, p. 124.

† This prince, according to the refined manners of the court at that period, from being rather tall, but wanting symmetry, was distinguished by the additional affix to his name of *Longshanks*: and as observed by a most able historic lawyer, received the earldom in question, probably, as he did the principality of Wales, rather in empty title, than profitable possession. For as Mathew Paris, a cosmographer and contemporary, states, on the Prince making complaint to his father respecting the disappointments he experienced, under the extensive and loose grants, obtained in reply, "Quid ad me terra tua? Est ex dono meo. Exere vires primitivas, famam excita juvenilem, et de cætero timeant inimici, &c."

teenth of the same year he made a further grant, of all his goods, chattels, and stock of cattle, then being in, or upon, the said lands of the earldom, previously bestowed upon the Prince.

The succeeding kings of England, when they created their sons, the heirs apparent to the crown, princes of Wales, at the same time invested them with the said earldom of Chester, including Flintshire. And by their respective charters, on those occasions, recapitulated the items of the grant, in manner following;—with the earldom all lands, viz. the castles of Chester, Beston, Rothlam, Flint, Hope, and also the manors of Hope, Hopedal, Forsham with the Cantred and lands of Englefield; together with the other estates, in the counties of Chester, Flint, and elsewhere, belonging unto the said earldom.' "And the advowson of the cathedral church of St. Asaph in Wales, and the avoidance, issues, and profits of the temporalities of the bishoprics of Chester, and St. Asaph, aforesaid, together with all advowsons, pensions, portions, corrodies, offices, prizes, customs, liberties, franchises, lordships, comots, hundreds, escheats, forfeitures, and hereditaments, unto the said earldom belonging.*" From a survey of the ancient revenues of the earldom, arising from numerous grants, which was made in the fiftieth year of king Edward the third, the whole, not deducting certain official fees, amounted to the annual sum of 1304l. 15s. 4d. viz.

COUNTY OF CHESTER.

	L.	S.	D.
The fee Farm of the city of Chester	100	0	0
Other profits out of the said city	4	0	0
Farm of the town of Medwick	64	0	0
Farm of the Mills upon the river Dee	240	0	0
Mannor of Dracklow in yearly rent	49	1	10
Farm of the Mannor of Dunmarsh	15	0	0
The Forest of Mara, the issues and profits thereof	51	7	0
Rents and profits of Norwich	66	0	0

Rents

* Dodridge's Historical Account, p. 126.

	£.	S.	D.
Rent of Shotwick Mannor	30	14	1
Rent of Fordsham Mannor	56	13	4
Profits of the Sheriffs of the county	134	7	4
Perquisites of courts holden by the justice of Chester	100	0	0
Profits of the Escheators office	100	0	0
Sum total of the revenue of the Earldom of Chester	1081	1	9

The County of Flint.

Profits of the Mannor of Hope and Hopedale	63	0	0
Profits of the Mannor of Ellow and of the coal mines there	6	0	0
Profits of the constable of Rothlam, whereof he was accountable	8	14	0
Rent of the town of Flint	56	0	0
Rent of the town of Colshul	4	7	10
Rent of the town of Carourse	22	6	8
Rent of the town of Bagherge	14	3	4½
Town of Veyvol	13	6	8
Town of Rothlam, and rent thereof	72	9	2
Town of Mosten, and rent thereof	15	6	8
Profits of the office of Escheator of Englefield	56	0	0
The Bleglot of the county of Flint which consists of the profits of the 100 courts in the county	72	11	9½
Perquisites of the sessions in Flint	30	0	0
Profits of Escheator in the said county	8	0	0
Sum total of the revenues of the Earldom of Chester, arising from the county of Flint.	442	19	5
Rents of Macklefield Borough	31	0	0
Profits of Macklefield Hundred	31	14	0
Profits of Macklefield Forest	88	0	0
Profits of Macklefield Store	13	6	8
Herbage and Agistments of the park of Macklefield	6	0	0
Sum total of Macklefield Lordship	170	8	9
Sum total of all the Revenues of the said Earldom, in the counties of Chester and Flint, and Lordship of Macklefield	1694	9	8

Out of which total sum there were deducted these sums following, viz.

Alms of the said Earldom	61	6	8
To Sir Rich. Stafford 129l. as due of a rent out of the said Earldom	129	0	0
Fees of the Justices yearly	100	0	0
Which being deducted, the whole revenue of the said earldom remaining, not allowing any other fees to officers, amounted to	1304	15	4

There appears, notwithstanding this detailed statement, a want of elucidation. An air of mystery seems to have been cast over purposely, or casually attended, the affairs of the Wallian princes, from the very epoch of their receiving the designated dignity. A studied mode of arithmetical calculation is, from this account, evidently adopted, for the purpose of affording counts to admit of future litigation. In fact the crown was ever ous of its prerogative, and the principality of Wales, as well e earldom of Chester, &c. in the first instance was a matter urtesy; and the revenues belonging to each held as fees pite of the king: and perhaps revocable ad placitum.

revenues of the earldom of Chester, as they stand ged to the crown, and are as follows.

THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

	L.	S.	D.
Fee Farm of the city of Chester	22	2	4½
Escheated lands with the said city	0	7	0
Rents of the Mannor of Dracklow and Rudcheath	26	2	6
Farm of the town of Medywick	21	6	0
Profits of Mara and Modren	34	0	9
Profits of Stotwick Mannor and Park	23	19	0
Fulling Mills upon the river Dee	11	0	0
Annual profits of Fordsham Mannor	48	0	0
Profits of Macklefield Hundred	6	1	8
Farm of Macklefield Borough	16	1	5
Profits of the Forest of Macklefield	85	12	11½
Profits of Escheator of Chester	24	19	0
Profits of the sheriff of the said county	43	12	3
Profits of the Chamberlain of the county of Chester	55	14	0
Sum total of the revenue of the said Earldom, in the county of Chester	418	1	2½

COUNTY

County of Flint.

	L.	S.	D.
Yearly value of Ellow	20	8	0
Farm of the town of Flint	33	19	4
Farm of Cayrouse	7	2	4
Castle of Ruthlam	5	12	10
Rents and profits of Mosten	7	0	0
Rents and profits of Colshil	54	16	0
Rents of Ruthlam town	44	17	6
Lands in Englefield, yearly value	23	10	0
Profits of Vayvol	5	9	0
Profits of the office of Escheator	6	11	9
The mines of Cole and Wood within the Mannor of Mosten	120	0	0
The Mines and profits of the fairs of Northope	3	9	2
The total sum of the said revenues in yearly Rent	244	5	4
In Casualties was lastly	37	0	8
Total in the whole	181	6	0

The fees of the officers of the said Earldom.

The County of Chester.

The fee of the office of the Escheator	10	10	0
The fee of the Justices of assise in the counties of Chester and Flint	100	0	0
Fee of the Attorney General	3	6	8
Fee of four Serjeants at Law	14	6	8
Chamberlain of Chester, his fee	20	0	0
Constable of Chester castle, his fee	20	0	0
Constable of Flint castle, his fee	10	0	0
Ranger's Fee of Mara forest	4	11	3
Fee of the porter of the castle of Flint	6	1	8
Fee of the porter of the said castle, and of the bayliff itinerant there	9	2	6
Fee of the Governor of the forest of Macklefield	12	0	0
Fee of the two clerks of the Exchequer at Chester, for every of them 4l. 11s. 3d.	9	2	6
Fee of the Surveyor of the works within the said county Palatine	6	1	8

Fee

It is in shape a kind of stripe, or slip of land, politically severed from a much larger region, to which it previously belonged; and extends nearly thirty three miles in length, and on the average, about ten in breadth. By the returns made to parliament, it appears to contain 7585 houses, and 39,622 inhabitants of whom 6989 were employed in trade, and manufactures; and 10,332 occupied in the labours of agriculture. A portion of these Mr. Pennant describes, as a *mixed* people, whose fathers and grandfathers had resorted here, for the sake of employment, out of the English mining counties; the issue of which, being the offspring of Welsh mothers, from the power of reiterated example, have intirely lost the vernacular language of their progenitors.

Though this cannot in a comparative view be called a mountainous country, yet both as to SOIL and SURFACE, it is considerably diversified. Some of its ridges have rather sharp escarpments; but generally the hills fall in gentle slopes, descending into fertile vales, through which meander several pleasing and useful streams. From the shore of the Dee, the land suddenly rises for three or four miles in fine inequalities consisting of an argillaceous soil; highly productive in corn and grass. Beyond this, in the vicinity of Halken, a mountainous tract runs for a considerable extent nearly parallel with the river, the upper parts of which present a sterile appearance; but the interior is incalculably rich abounding in minerals, lead, and calamine, interspersed with immense strata of limestone and chert. The inferior parts produce coal and limestone, and the lower parts, are diversified with well wooded dingles, that coming from the cwms of the hills, open their embochures to the tide river. The northern part of the county is in general flat, particularly towards the sea; but yield excellent corn and grass. The eastern part has a line of elevation, whose escarpment faces the vale of Clwyd, and forms a bold-frontier, well known under the denomination of the *Clwydian* hills; the isolated summits of which, *Moel Arthur*, *Moel Fenlli*, and *Moel y Famma*, are conspicuous at an immense distance. These

form a chain of varied elevation commencing at Prestatyn, on the estuary of the Dee, extending in a direction from north to south as far as the point of *Moel yr Accre* in the parish of *Llanarmon*, where reaching a further county, they terminate in the mountain Cefn du in the parish of Gwyddelwern. No passage is obtainable over their heath-clad summits but by the few bwlchs that are to be climbed for the purpose nearly two thirds of their height, except one opening near Bodfari where a road has been formed from Holywell to Denbigh. The soil of these hills is of a commixture of clay and gravel, and the argillaceous is the predominant portion. The substrata of this elevated range principally consists of calcareous substances.

The RIVERS of this district, except the *Dee*, to which it has only a partial claim, are not navigable. The *Clwyd*, having risen in Denbighshire, and watered that county, enters this in the vicinity of Bodfari, and taking a northerly direction, empties itself into the Irish sea. The *Alun* which land-dives in the vicinity of Mold has its fountain head in the same county; and after a singularly curious route through this, re-enters that, in its course to form a confluence with the Dee. Other rivulets as, the *Terrig*, *Wheler*, *Elwy*, &c. form contributary streams, which furnish water for the demands of numerous mills; and afford for the table, a supply of various and delicate fish.

THE NATURAL PRODUCTIONS of this county, are more multifarious and valuable, than might be expected in a district of so limited an extent.

The *Mineralogy* of this portion of Britain has been long an interesting subject, and at a very early period it virtually became a mining country. The Romans here, as in other parts of the island, soon found out the importance of the substrata, though at that time, notwithstanding they were considered the first people, and those who had accumulated, according to partial historic accounts, all the wisdom of antiquity; the modes of extricating minerals from the various matrices, and the reduction, in a way to produce the most metal from a given quantity of the different ores, was only partially known to them.

The

vale, and ledges, composed of shivery shale, the other opposing declivity.

Both the limestone and chert are of unknown depth: because, neither the natural fissures, nor the mineral veins, that cross them in lines, of general, but various bearing, have hitherto been fathomed.

The minerals of those tracts, are *lead ores* of various kinds, and degrees of estimated value; *Lapis calaminaris*, and another species of zinc, that forms in some processes a substitute for calamine; known by the miners, under the denomination of *Black-jack*.

Most of the works are called *rakes*, as Whiteford rake, Rowley's rake, &c. Those of lead extend from twenty to ninety yards in depth.

Lead ore, from the experience of mining for a century and a half past, is found to be worth working at the depth of one hundred and thirty, to a hundred and forty yards. A fault in many instances then occurs, and the shattery veins beneath after trial, have been found to afford no profitable speculation; the metallic substances being overcharged with *spar*. The veins of *lead ore* run in opposite directions, either north and south, or east and west. But the ore obtained from the former is of inferior quality, containing no silver; or so small a quantity, as not to make the extraction an object worthy the attention of the refiner. The ores differ considerably as to quality. The common lamellated kind, called Potter's ore, because used in glazing fictile vessels, yields on an average, from fourteen to sixteen cwt of lead from every ton of smelted ore.

The brown or grey lapideous species of ore, denominated by the miners *caulk*, yields from five hundred, to eleven hundred weight of lead in the ton.

At one time a green lead ore, was discovered in the Halkin mountain, of such an obstinate tenacity, as to resist the reductive force of a powerful blast furnace, before it would give out its metal; which amounted to about thirteen hundred weight per ton.

The

The *gravel ore* found in what the miners denominate *flats*, that is, a loose strata, composed of sand and stones, consists of a kind of bolders, or tumblers, formed of the mineral rounded, and polished on the surface, by the force of agitating waters. The lumps are of various sizes, from that of an hazel nut, to pieces, weighing several tons. The quality is nearly similar to the Potter's ore.

What is called *waste*, is composed of the refuse of good ores; which some smelters will refine, if they can obtain from ten to thirteen hundred of lead per ton of scoria.

The quantity of silver extracted from the different ores of lead is extremely variable, from five to sixteen ounces per ton; and after assaying, if found to produce ten, it is considered worth the trouble and expence of extraction.

It is not easy to ascertain the quantity of lead obtained annually, from this small mineral tract; because some is exported in the state of ore, and for the purposes of blending; and other ores are imported from distant parts, to the different smelting houses, conducted under the respective companies; while the custom house returns are only to be found in the port registers of Chester, where the books do not make the desirable distinction: indiscriminately including the mineral products of this county with the adjacent one of Denbigh.

Lapis calaminaris is found in large quantities, particularly on the eastern side of the county. This, generally lies in a matrix of limestone or chert. It assumes various colours, viz. yellow, green, red, brown, or black; and is of different degrees of hardness, and much various surface: some is reticulated like corroded bones; and other kinds appear similar to indurated wax. Another species of zinc, pseudo-galena, or *black-jack*, is obtained in large quantities; and is now ascertained to be a fair substitute for calamine. The appearance is metalline, and the colour generally a bluish grey. A fact tending to shew, that society, for useful arts, frequently owes more to accident, than to human investigation is, this semi-metal, and its uses was long known in India, whence it was imported as *Tutenag*,

yet the secret of its being an ingredient in the composition of brass, was not known in this country till about the year 1738; when it was communicated by a foreigner. And from the incident of a ship, belonging to Portugal laden with calamine being taken by the Dutch, the Arabic origin of the term was disclosed; and the discovery of its being the *Cadmia* of the ancients made*. At different periods the metallic productions of this district afforded prodigious wealth; the richest mine of lead was discovered at a spot called *Pont y Pwll-dwr*, on the side of Halkin mountain; which yielded to those concerned, in about the space of thirty years, upwards of a million sterling.

From such encouraging incidents, men are induced to embark their little vessels upon the ocean of speculation; and it is perhaps an undecidable question; whether more wealth has been gained, or more lost in the aggregate account, by the multiplied attempts to obtain these subterraneous treasures. "Minerals, says the observant Pennant, when speaking from ocular demonstration, respecting this district, are the source of wealth to the land owner, and of wealth, but oftener poverty, to the adventurous miners; who like adventurers in a lottery, to which miners may be truly compared, are tempted by the good fortune of others to risque, and frequently lose their all. If they are successful, they never think of a future day, but enjoy their fortune in good living, forgetful of the pains it cost them, till all is gone; and they are again compelled to take to hard labor. After a life of dissipation they sink under the fatigue, lose their health, and early become a burthen to the community, by adding to the list of paupers under which it groans." This moral view of the subject verifies the ancient adage '*cito parta cito dilabuntur*;' and serves to illustrate the economical one, previously taken in the description of Caernarvonshire.

A great portion of this mineral tract was alienated from the crown in the time of Charles the first, in favour of *sir Richard Grosvenor*, who obtained a grant of all the mines, or rakes of lead

* See Watson's Chemical Essays, Vol. IV.

lead within the hundreds of Coleshill and Rhuddlan. Previously they had been divided into different lots, and let out on leases, granted for a term of years. From this period the extent called Halkin mountain, though the surface is commonable land, the substrata, or mineral parts, are the property of lord Grosvenor.

Coals it has been observed are found in great plenty, and the coal district of this county extends in a south-easterly direction, commencing at Llanasa, through the parishes of Whiteford, Holywell, Flint, and Northop, terminating in Hawarden. The dip of the veins vary considerably, both as to bearing and inclination; in general it is from one yard in four, to two in three. The beds also are of different thicknesses, from two feet to five yards, producing coal of several qualities, useful in various branches of manufacture; as well as answerable to the demands for culinary, and other purposes. Canal coal, though not of the first kind, possesses a very desirable quality for lime-burning; and is found in extensive beds. The kind called by Dr. Plot, in his history of Staffordshire, *Peacock-coal* from its surface being variegated with the interchanging brilliancy of colours, admired in that beautiful bird, is at times met with, but sparingly dispersed. The overlay is for the most part a dark shivery shale, dissoluble when exposed to the weather, the *Pyritaceus schistus* and varieties of Constredt; which among the miners is denominated the covering or *roof*, as it is considered the general indication of quickly arriving at coal. The overlay is not constantly the same, and the variation in the strata, which compose it, afford interesting geological facts, which compared with others, discovered in different parts of the island, tend to throw some light on the formation of this portion of the globe.

The strata in the coal fields of Bychton are the following,

	Feet.	Inch.
1. Red marle and clay.....	12	0
2 Shale	15	0
2 T 3	3	Freestone

oftener on the sinking of new pits, in the black slat, or as the workmen term it *slag* or *cleft*, overlaying the coal; and whenever in digging, these mock plants, or resemblances are brought up, they instantly conclude, that coal cannot be far distant. What have been discovered in these works are chiefly representative of capillary plants, or those of the Fern kind; and most belonging to the genus Polypodium. But this mineral sort of foliage is not confined to coal-slats. They sometimes accompany other terrene bodies; Camden mentions several being discovered, that had the appearance of oak leaves, in marl pits, near the town of Caerwys.

The *botanical* productions of this county differ but little from those of Denbighshire; it however affords a few instances of local peculiarity or rare appearance. Among these may be reckoned *Anchusa sempervirens*, Evergreen Alkanet; which Dr. Smith from a leaf sent him was inclined to think was *Symphytum tuberosum*. The *Arenaria verna*, Mountain chickweed; which with its flowers decorates in the months of May and June some of the barren hills. The *Aecidium fuscum*, a plant that has no English name, is found in Mr. Pennant's woods at Downing, and which Mr. Lightfoot supposed to be a variety of the *Anemone nemerosa*, or wood Anemone. A scarlet kind of the order Fungi, *Peziza epidendra*, or Scarlet cup mushroom, has been discovered. This, though described by Ray*, is not noticed by the prince of collectors, Linnæus.

The large manorial properties in this county, and great landed proprietors, are

CAERWYS .....*The earl of Plymouth.*
MOSTYN .....*Sir Thomas Mostyn.*
MOLD .....*Do.*
HAWARDEN .....*Sir Stephen Glynne.*
MAYLOR or MAELOR ..... { *Sir Thomas Hanmer*, partly, & partly. *Philip Lloyd Fletcher, Esq.*
EWLOE.....*Bryan Cooke, Esq.*

HOLYWELL.

* Synopsis of British plants, p. 13. No. 5.

HOLYWELL .....*Earl Grey de Wilton.*
PRESTATYN.....*Richard Wilding, Esq.*
PICTON and AXTON .....*Sir Pyers Mostyn.*
COLESHILL .....*Paul Panton, Esq.*
HOPE .....*The earl of Derby.*

Besides these there are many large landed properties belonging to nobility and gentry, either detached, or falling under the paramount manors, above recited.

The principal seats are

ST. ASAPH's .....*The Bishop's palace.*
HALKIN .....*Earl Grosvenor.*
TREMOSTYN .....*Sir Thomas Mostyn.*
GREDINGTON.....*Lord Kenyon.*
BETTISFIELD .....*Sir Thomas Hanmer.*
HAWARDEN .....*Sir Stephen Glynne.*
LLEWESWOOD .....*The late sir John Wynn's.*
FRON .....*The Rev. Richard Williams.*
PENBEDW .....*Late Watkin Williams, Esq.*
GWYSANEY.....*Late Robert Davies, Esq.*
TOWER .....*Late Rev. Dr. Wynne.*
PENGWERN.....*Sir Edward Price Lloyd, bart.*
KINMAEL PARK .....*Rev. Mr. Hughes.*
BODLEWYDDAN .....*Sir John Williams, bart.*
KILKEN HALL .....*Thomas Mostyn Edwards, Esq.*
PENBEDW .....*Late Watkin Williams, Esq.*
BRYN YORKIN .....*Late Ellis Yonge, Esq.*
RHUAL.....*Thomas Griffith, Esq.*
TRELACRE .....*Late Thomas Mostyn, Esq.*
BRYN Y PYS .....*Richard Parry Price, Esq.*
GWERNHAILED .....*Philip Lloyd Fletcher, Esq.*
BROUGHTON .....*Peter Davies, Esq.*
HALSTON .....*Late John Mytton, Esq.*
EYTON .....*Late Kenrick Eyton, Esq.*
BAGILT HALL.....*Late Paul Panton, Esq.*
HAWARDEN EASE .....*William Boydell, Esq.*
MIDDLE SYCHDIN HALL .....*John Wynne, Esq.*
DOWNING HALL .....*David Pennant, Esq.*
NERQUIS.....*Miss Gifford.*

In addition to these are many good houses, belonging to the clergy, gentry, and independent proprietors, engaged in trade decorate this county; and for so small a district, the number is comparatively great.

FLINT

Is the county town of the shire to which it gives the name; but whence it derived the appellation, has not yet been ascertained. Mr. Pennant remarks, it had an early origin; and notwithstanding it is not mentioned in Doomsday book, the term is Saxon, and the spot was so called, anterior to the conquest. And because the country produces none of those accompaniments of chalky strata, denominated flints, 'he is totally at a loss for the derivation.' But the fact should be adverted to, that when Flintshire was made one of the four North Wallian counties in the time of Edward the first, the statutes were promulgated in barbarous Latin, and it was in some instances called comitatus de Flint, which probably was a translation, or various mode of expressing in writing, comitatus de silici, or the silicious territory: Chert, which the ancients designated by both the names of *silex*, as well as *petrosilex*, being a very predominant feature in the geology of this district. Another conjecture may be hazarded, as not improbable, that the name was British, *Eflwyn* a shred, a severed part: a name the independent Britons would naturally give it, after the inhabitants had submitted to the Roman yoke: which it is evident from historic document, they did long prior to the other subdued parts of Cambria.

The town of Flint, from the present appearance, and concomitant circumstances, attendant on its history, furnishes an analogical proof, that this, though probably not a station, was a Roman-British town, under the protection of the advanced posts, connected with Deva: being formed on the plan of a

FLINT CASTLE.
North Wales.

Roman encampment, rectangular, and surrounded with regular entrenchments, and ramparts with four *portæ*, or fortified gates. This is evident from the vast quantity of Roman coins, fibulæ, and various instruments, discovered from time to time, by the workmen in the old washes, as the miners term the spots, where they separate ore from antique scoria, in this, and the adjoining parish.

The reason the name does not occur in Doomsday book is, because it was comprised in the district, extending from near Chester, to the river Clwyd, denominated the hundred of *Atiscros*. And Mr. Pennant supposes, this, which at present is a chapelry in the parish of Northop, was the place, mentioned in the same survey, under the tenementum *de Coleselt*; comprising one hide of taxable land, and forming part of the possessions, belonging to a lord, called Robert of Rhuddlan, which was held by one Edwin a *freeman*. And probably was the same included among the benefactions, enumerated in the charter, granted by David ap Llewelyn to the abbey of Basinwerk, under the denomination of Capella de Colsul.

The castle, situated on an isolated rock in a marsh near the left bank of the Dee, had once the channel of the river immediately under its walls; which are still, at high tides, laved by the waters of the estuary.

Much doubt has arisen, as to the period, when this fortress was erected. Camden, who is followed by lord Lyttleton, asserts it was begun by Henry the second: and finished by Edward the first*. Leland adduces the authority of an ancient writer, who attributes the commencement of the work to the latter autocratical monarch†; and couples both with respect to eligibility of site, and synchronism of date, with the erection of the one at Rhuddlan: referring to the former, the aptitude of situation; and to the latter, the year A. D. 1277. This

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. 558.

† Collectanea, Tom. II. p. 420: and in the same work Tom. I. p. 246, it is stated A. D. 1276 "Rex Wallian adiens castellum de Flint *de nove* fundavit."

This statement is probable, from the circumstances; for after the signal defeat of Henry at the battle of Euloe, when his hereditary standard-bearer, the earl of Essex, threw down the ensign of England, and basely fled, that monarch might have thrown up some fortified works, to cover his army; and prevent such disaster on his future aggressions against the Welsh: yet the erection of the present fortress appears from a petition of the inhabitants of Flint in the year 1281, to have been the work of the subsequent invader. For they state, among other grievances, that the king had builded the castle of Flint upon their soil; by which means numbers of persons were injured: and although the justiciary had received a royal mandate, to grant them a specified remuneration of ground, equal in quantity, and quality; they had been despoiled of their property, and had neither received in lieu, lands, nor money*. In 1280 an order was issued for the custody of the gate, when probably the castle was first garrisoned; and the constable, as the governor, was appointed an annual salary of ten pounds.

Soon after this, the fortress was taken by surprise, in the general insurrrection, that took place during the reconciliation of prince David with his brother Llewelyn, on the secession of the former from the English interest.

Here Stowe observes, the infatuated and impotent character, Edward the second, received with exulting pleasure, his imperious, because desirable favourite, *Piers Gavestan*; who had previously landed at Caernarvon, on his return from banishment in the sister isle.

This fortress, with those of Chester, Beeston, and Rhuddlan, was

* See the statement of grievances*, drawn up and presented by the command of prince Llewelyn to his grace, John Pecham, archbishop of Canterbury: who volunteered his servics as mediator between the contending parties; but the arbitration ended, by both having recourse to the unhappy hostile method of settling differences, the sword.

"Quidquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi."

HORACE.

* Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Appendix.

was granted as appears from a pre-inserted document, to the black Prince, by his royal father, Edward the third: and 1385 was bestowed with the chief justiciart of Chester on the infamous *Robert Vere*, earl of Oxford, by Richard the second.

On the attainder of that nobleman, it was subsequently in possession of Percy, earl of Northumberland; who basely requited the favour of the grantor, by inveigling him to this fortress, with the view of entrapping, and putting him under the power of the cruel Bolingbroke; who insidiously intimated, through the hypocritical abilities of the duke, that he was merely wishing an interview with the monarch at this place, on his return from Ireland, for two exclusive purposes; first the patriotic one, that the nation be allowed the privilege of having a parliament; and the other, a private one, the restoration of his alienated property. The conduct of Richard on that occasion, demonstrates his mental imbecility; and the illusive stratagem of the earls, clearly shews the most consummate villainy. Richard was met by Percy at Conwy, who there delivered the purport of his diplomacy. On the king's, who had been too much addicted to reliance on *espionage*, mistrusting the sincerity of the message, and the professed intentions of the earl; the latter, to quiet, or if possible allay the royal apprehension, accompanied him to the temple of Deity; attended high mass; and at the altar took the oath of allegiance and fidelity. The snare was effectually laid; but when they had proceeded to a defile, in the mountainous recesses, near Penmaen Rhos, the king perceived his error, in having placed confidence in a sacramental oath; by the appearance of a numerous military band, bearing upon their standards the Northumberland arms. He would have escaped from the decoy; but Percy, springing forward, caught the bridle of his horse, directed his course towards Flint; and the poor deluded prince had only time to reproach the miscreant with his perjury: by observing, that the God he had sworn before that morning, would

[9] Annals, 214.

would do him justice, and amply retaliate the blasphemous transaction, at the day of judgment. After halting with his royal prisoner at Rhuddlan, for the purpose of refreshment, he conveyed him with that promptitude, which is proverbially, because essentially requisite, for the completion of treacherous designs, to the castle of Flint. The next day he was received with that mock appearance of respect, which can only be necessary, when the last act of wicked conception is to be perpetrated. The next day 'after dinner the duke of Lancaster entered the castle all-armed, his basenet excepted. King Richard came down from the Keep to meet him, when Bolingbroke falling on his knees, with his cap in his hand, immediately as he saw the king, assumed, by repeating the same ceremony, a dutiful and respectful appearance. On seeing this apparent act of rational submission, the king then tooke of his hoode and spoke first. 'Fair cousin of Lancaster you are right wellcome.' The duke bowing still more courteously replied, 'My liege lord I am come before you sent for me, the reason why I will shewe you. The common fame among your people is such, that ye have for the space of twenty, or two and twenty years, ruled them very rigorously; but if it please our lord, I will helpe you to govern better." Then the king answered, 'Fair cousin of Lancaster; sith it pleaseth you, it pleaseth me well.' The intrigue then had its denouement: the contriver of the plot quickly threw off the mask, and adding insolence to infamy, 'with a high sharpe voyce, the duke badde, bring forth the king's horses; and then two little nagges, not worth forty franks, were brought forth; the king was set on the one, and the earl of Salisbury on the other, and thus the duke brought the king from Flint to Chester, where he was delivered to the duke of Gloucester's sonne, and to the earle of Arundel's sonne, that loved him but a little, for he had put their fathers to death, who led him strait to the castle*." And thus in this '*dollorous castelle*,' as Halle styles it, was deposed

* Stowe's Annals, p. 321. &c.

deposed the unfortunate because inefficient monarch, king Richard the second.

Kings, as Shakespeare observes, are but elevated men, and Richard, according to the testimony of Froissart, did not only experience the ingratitude of man; but an additional sting was added, from that portion of the brute creation supposed incapable of caprice either in favour or affection. His favourite dog deserted him, and as though endued with a pre-sentiment of the coming adverse fortune of his master, he fawned on the rival Bolingbroke. The story as tending to illustrate Animal Biography is perhaps worthy of promulgation.

" Le Roy Richard avoit ung levrier lequel on nommoit Math tres beau levrier oultre mesure ne vouloit ce chien cognoistre nul homme hors le Roi, et quand le Roy vouloit chevaucher, celluy qui lavoit en garde le laissoit aller, et ce levrier venoit tantost devers le Roy le festoyer ce luy mettoient incontinent quil estoit eschappé les deux pieds sur les epaules. Et adoncques advint que le Roy et le conte Derby parlans ensemble en la place de la conrt dudit chasteau, et leur chevaulx tous sellez, car ils vouloient monter a cheval, ce levrier nomme Math qui estoit coustumier de faire au Roy ce que dist est, laissa le Roy et sen vint au duc de Lenclastre, et luy fist toutes telles contenances que paravant il avoit acoustume de faire au Roy, et lui assist les deux pieds sur le col, et le commenca moullt grandement a cherir le duc Lenclastre qui point ne cognoissoit ce levrier demanda au Roy, et qui veult ce levrier faire, cousin dist le Roy, ce vous est une grant signifiance & a moy petite. Comment dist duc lentendez vous. Je lentends dist le Roy, le levrier vous festoye et receult au jourdhuy comme Roy d'Angleterre que vous serez et ien seray deposé, et le levrier en a cognoissance naturelle. Si le tenez deles vous, car il vous suyura et meslongera. Le duc de Lenclastre entendit bien ceste parolle et fist chere au levrier le quel oncques depuis ne voulut suyvre Richard de Bourdeaulx suvyit le duc de Lenclastre*."

" And

* [Chronique de Froissart, Tom. IV. Fueillet 72. Edition de Paris 1530.]

"And as it was enfourmed me kyng Richarde had a grayhounde called Mathe who always wayted upon the kynge, and would knowe no man else. For when so ever the kynge did ryde, he that kepte the grayhounde dyd lette hym lose, and he wolde streyght runne to the kynge and fawne uppon him, and leape with his fore fete upon the kynges shoulders. And as the kynge and the erle of Derby talked togyder in the courte, the grayhounde, who was wont to leape upon the kynge, left the kynge and came to the erle of Derby, duke of Lancastre, and made to hym the same frendly countenaunce and chere as he was wonte to do to the kynge. The duke, who knewe not the grayhounde demaunded of the kynge what the grayhounde wolde do. Cosyn, quod the kynge, it is a great good token to you, and an evyll sygne to me. Sir howe knowe you that quod the duke? I knowe it well, quod the kynge. The grayhounde maketh you chere this daye as kynge of Englande, as ye shall be, and I shall be deposed: the grayhounde hath this knowledge naturallye: therefore take hym to you; he wyll folowe you and forsake mee.

The duke understoode well those wordes, and cheryshed the grayhounde, who wolde never after followe kynge Richarde, but folowed the duke of Lancastre*."

The cruel display of the captive monarch, on his way to London, by the wary Bolingbroke, is finely depicted by the immortal bard, in the conversation imagined to pass between the duke and duchess of Yorke on the occasion.

"Then, as I said, the duke, great Bolingbroke
Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed,
Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,
With slow, but stately pace kept on his course:
While all tongues cry'd, God save thee, Bolingbroke!
You wou'd have thought the very windows spoke,

&c.

* This extract is from the translation of the French Chronicler, made by sir John Bouchier, lord Berners; but a more accurate view of the author is to be found in a modern edition of his works, wearing an English dress, by a friend and a furtherer of literature, *Thomas Johnes of Hafod, M. P.*

So many greedy looks of young and old
Through casements darted their desiring eyes
Upon his visage; and that all the walls,
With painted imag'ry, had said at once,
Jesu preserve thee! welcome Bolingbroke!
Whilst he, from one side to the other turning,
Bespoke them thus; I thank you countrymen;
And this still doing, thus he pass'd along.

Duch. Alas! poor Richard, where rides he the while?

York. As in a theatre the eyes of men,
After a well grac'd actor leaves the stage,
Are idly bent on him that enters next,
Thinking his prattle to be tedious:
Ev'n so, or with much more contempt, men's eyes
Did scowl on Richard: no man cry'd, God save him!
No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home,
But dust was thrown upon his sacred head;
Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off,
His force still combating with tears and smiles,
The badges of his grief and patience,
That had not God, for some strong purpose, steel'd
The hearts of men, they must perforce have melted;
And barbarism itself have pitied him."*

From a manuscript account in the Harleian collection, it appears although this fortress did not fall into the hands of Owen Glyndwr, yet numbers of the Flintshire men took up arms in behalf of their gallant countrymen, during that alarming insurrection; and on its termination, the prince of Wales with that merciful urbanity, which dignifies royalty, adds a jewel to the crown, and contributes towards the establishment of thrones, procured a pardon for his tenants; who, under the patriotic delusion of ideal independence, had forfeited their pledged allegiance, and joined in the rebellion.

How Owen's policy was baffled here, while he overran most other parts of the principality, carrying fire and sword with dreadful devastation, wherever he was opposed, does not appear, as there is a gap in history after this period for a long time.

* Shakespeare's tragedy of king Richard the second.

Respecting this castle, little appears subsequently if historic records, till the civil war in the reign of Charles the first, when after having, from reparation, been put in a state, fit for defence; it was garrisoned for the king, by *sir Roger Mostyn knt.* who had been previously appointed governor: of whom Whitelock makes this honourable mention. "This colonel Mostyn is my sister's son, a gentleman of good parts and mettle: of a very ancient family, large possessions, and great interest in that country; so that in twelve hours he raised fifteen hundred men for the king*." But like many others in the royal cause of that period, he suffered privations, that evinced more real patriotism, than ever was displayed on the other side; however corrupt the system of the existing government might have been, on the one part; or the right of resistance justifiable on the other. In the year 1643, the fortress was closely besieged by the parliamentarian forces, under the command of sir William Brereton, and sir Thomas Myddleton; and as nobly defended by the commandant; till further tenacity would have terminated in the annihilation of the garrison; which, prior to their caption had been reduced to live upon horseflesh, and that being consumed, and all other provisions failing, they were compelled to surrender; but their exemplary bravery procured for them very honourable terms; which, though extorted, did credit also to the assailants.

The castle must have been retaken by the Royalists, for in 1645 it appears the garrison of Beeston, by articles of convention, had been permitted to march out of that fortress, after a most gallant defence, with all the honours of war, to join their compatriots in this. The accession of strength, notwithstanding, was inadequate to the force by which it was opposed; for on the 29th of August, 1646, Flint Castle was given up to major general Mytton: and in the following year, was, like the other Welsh castles, dismantled under a general order of the Commons house†. Its noble governor, however, did not receive

* Memoirs, 76.

† Rushworth's Collections, Vol. I. p. 24.

ceive that liberal treatment, his prowess had procured for those who served under him; for, on being released, after a long imprisonment in Conwy castle, his finances became so reduced, having expended for the royal cause upwards of sixty thousand pounds, that he was necessitated to leave his family seat in a derelict state, and live *incognito* at an ordinary farm-house. Among other rights, resumed by the crown, on the restoration, the castle of Flint was one; where it is still vested; and governed by a constable appointed under that paramount authority; and who according to ancient royal grants, still appears in the twofold capacity of military and municipal: for he is *governor* of the fortress, and *mayor* of the borough.

The building was originally of a parallelogramic form, strengthened by circular towers at each angle. One disjoined from the walls, as appears by the present remains, was much larger than the rest; and seems to have been an additional work. This consists of two concentric circular walls, each six feet thick, including between them an area, twenty feet in diameter, called *le donjon* by Froissart, into which, as a place of security in case of dernier resort, persons might retire, or retreat: having a gallery opening into it, consisting of a kind of zigzag communication, up and down, that was furnished with four entrances, or arched openings. This is denominated the *double tower;* and is situated at the south east end, looking toward the land. The area, or court, contains about one acre of ground, and this like most other ancient buildings, that have been altered by the vogue of fashion, in the curtain on the west side, the remaining windows are in the pointed style. An outwork denominated a *Barbican,* consisted of a square tower, which was originally joined to the castle, by means of a drawbridge; and which seems to have been a kind of postern. That vanity, arising out of unrestricted ambition, was eminently conspicuous here. It appears, that persevering monarch Edward the first, took up his residence, for the sake of conciliating the people he had subdued, and setting an example of treacherous kindness to the adjacent district, of which he could

only make a conquest, by unfounded demonstration en militare; in the year 1277 he granted the men of Flint privileges and immunities, by a patent, which enabled them to form a corporation. But it is evident, though the writ was granted, and an order given, for proclaiming a market and a fair, to be held at Flint, that it was not executed till 1283. In this year the first charter was obtained, by which it was made a free borough, was dated at Flint, on the eighth of September. Under this grant, the corporation consists of a mayor, two bailiffs, and other subordinate officers. The charter was probably virtually annulled, either in the reign of the *Stuarts*, or during the Interregnum; for in the time of king William the third, a deed, which had been recognised, as equitably established, was confirmed by a new enaction.

Respecting elective franchise, it has been privileged since the twenty-seventh year of Henry the eighth; and in conjunction with Rhyddlan, Overton, Caergwrle, and Caerwys, a compound borough interest, sends one member to the representative assembly of the nation. The right of election is vested, in the persons, according to electioneering phraseology, termed 'payers of Scot and Lot,' or their under tenants: but this privilege has been denied, and after litigation, the subject still remains in a state of dubiety*.

The town, though apparently regularly laid out on its original formation, is a small insignificant place, as to comparative consequence; yet not despicable; because it is frequented by many of the haut-tôn, as a *bathing-place*; and is lately become a subsidiary to the more frequented place of resort, Parkgate, on the opposite margin of the Dee; but the marshy beach renders bathing both difficult and at times inconvenient. The walls

* Oldfield's Hist. &c. p. 216. From this authority, it appears, that the tenantry, occupying, either houses, or lands, under proprietors, paying Scot and Lot, were acknowledged to have a right of voting in the contested election for a burgess, of Flint, carried on in the spring of 1737. And by parliamentary logic, on a petition, whether pronounced *vexatious*, or not, the decision was, such persons *do not* possess the elective franchise.

walls and ramparts have been obliterated by the dilapidations of time, and little is left of the discriminating marks of military precaution.

The public buildings of the town are not very notable objects; though possessing local advantages, they exhibit little in the exterior, to attract the attention of the traveller.

The *Church*, a chapel of ease to Northop, is an inconsiderable edifice, having a small tower, or rather turret, at the west end, covered with boards, placed in a clinker form.

The *Guild* or *municipal hall* is not to be mentioned as an architectural structure; but

The *New-gaol*, however unpleasant the idea of solitary confinement may be, on the propriety and expediency of which much difference of opinion has arisen, is an economical display of a restraining structure; and is one instance, among many others, of the happy architectural skill of *Turner*, a provincial artist; whose posthumous fame can only be learned by distant inquiry.

The undertaking also, which was completed in 1785, redounds the most ample praise, that could be given to a gentleman, who though not in the highest station of life, by possessing great abilities, with still greater benevolence; and appropriating both to the most beneficent purposes, accomplished things, that need not be engraved on brass. The charity and activity exhibited, by an individual in, causing by his exertions the erection of the present edifice, a plain but comfortable building, contrasted with the miserable abode, designated for the unfortunate, and the accused; or those whose criminality had by the procedure of law, been adjudicated guilty; a subject that must afford pleasure to the friends of humanity.

The following inscription over the gateway was written by the late benevolent Thomas Pennant, Esq. who was a considerable promoter of the charitable work.

In the
twenty fifth year of his Majesty Geo. III.
In the Sheriffalty of Sir Thomas Hanmer Bt. this prison erected,

instead of the antient loathsome place of confinement,
in pity
to the misery of even the most guilty,
to alleviate the sufferings of lesser offenders,
or of the innocent themselves,
whom the chances
of human life may bring within these walls.
Done at the expence of the county;
aided by the subscriptions of several of the gentry,
who
in the midst of most distressful days
voluntarily took on themselves part of the burden,
in compassion to such of their countrymen
on whom
fortune had been less bounteous of her favours.

This capital of the county, owing to the great sessions being held at Mold, and other incidental circumstances; assumes the appearance of a deserted village. The streets though originally regularly laid out, are so broken by dilapidated walls, or removed houses, as to give the idea of an irregularly built place.

When the channel of the Dee winded at the foot of the castle walls*, this was probably a maritime place, that had its share of trade with the adjacent ports; but at present it can only admit of small vessels, capable of taking the ground, at the ebb of tide; regular packets, however, for the conveyance of letters, parcels, packages &c. sail daily, the wind permitting, for Parkgate and Chester.

Though during the bathing season some little life is excited, by the additional circulation of money; yet the market has been long discontinued; and the population very considerably diminished. According to the returns made to parliament it contains 309 houses, and 1,169 inhabitants; out of which number 262 were stated as occupied in trade, and 233 in agriculture.

Northop a village three miles distant, where is the mother church to the chapel of Flint, consists of a large disproportionate body, having at the west end a lofty and handsome embattled square tower. Three monuments, in the shape of altar tombs,

* Mooring rings are still visible in some of the remaining walls.

tombs, have on each a recumbent effigy, and one is of considerable antiquity; but the inscriptions are nearly obliterated. The remainder of that decorated with a female figure, has round it,

"LLEWC.....ANNO DOMINI 1482."

According to tradition her name was *Llcuci Llwyd*, a celebrated beauty of that period; perhaps the same, beloved by a noted Bard, who coming to visit her after long absence, met with the same shock, as the Chevalier de Rance did; for each found their beloved in a coffin*." But the effect produced, though pleasingly affectionate, was somewhat different. The Bard, after fainting at the sight, and reviving from the reverie, sate down and composed a beautiful elegy to her memory. The Count, also, swooned, but on resuscitation, he retired from the world; and as a commutative boon to heaven, for illicit love, founded the monastery of *La Trappe;* long distinguished by the austerities of its regulations. This living, in the reign of queen Anne, when episcopal mortuaries were by act of parliament abolished, was annexed, among other compensations, to the see of St. Asaph. And as elucidatory of ancient manners, it is not an uninteresting document in history. From an extent, or survey made in the reign of Elizabeth, it was found, that these post-obit dues from customary right, to the bishop of this diocese, were on the decease of every beneficed clergyman within the jurisdiction, as follows.

"Imprimus, his best gelding, horse or mare.
Item, His best gown.
Item, His best cloak.
Item, His waste coat.
Item, His hat and cap.
Item, His falchion.
Item, His best book.
Item, His surplice.
Item, His best coat, jerkin doublet, and breeches.
Item, His hose, or nether stockings, and garters.
Item, His purse and girdle.
Item, His knife and gloves.
Item, His signet, or ring of gold†."

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 115.
† Willis's, St. Asaph, 280.

Harry ap Dafydd, who kept a small pot, or public house, in this village. His abilities, however, were great, otherwise they would not have brought down upon him the consideration of the court. He, as a member of the Commons house, first rendered himself obnoxious to the ministerial party in the arbitrary reign of Elizabeth, 'the glorious days of good queen Bess,' by having had the courage to lift up his voice against, what from conviction, imagination, or the spirit of intrigue, he considered a violation of human rights, in a social state. He opposed the bill for the "expulsion of Popish priests;" for which he was committed to prison; and afterwards liberated, on making the required submission. He subsequently condescended to be sent out as a foreign spy; in which capacity, agreeable to the spirit and practice of *espionage*, deceived both parties; and fell prematurely, a deserved victim to intrigue, having been caught in the snares of his own duplicity.

Adjoining to Flint is the precinct of Atiscross or *Croes Ati*, that gave name to a cantref, or hundred, where stood a cross, an usual land mark in days of yore; particularly in cases of distinction, betwixt lay and ecclesiastical property. Tradition states, a large town once existed at this place; and the foundations of buildings have been discovered in ploughing. But the abundance of *Scoria* from lead ore imperfectly reduced, which contain fragments of melted, and unmelted metal, amounts to a convincing proof, that smelting was carried on here; and in the adjacent district at a very remote period. The works in Flint are situated nearly on the confines of Holywell. The boundary between the parishes consists of a small meandering rill. These form the lost links of the chain of Metallic operations in this direction, on the left bank of the Dee. They are generally known, under the denomination of 'the *salt works*,' a name which has been supposed to imply, that this had been the site of tide water pits, or pans, for procuring salt, by means of evaporation, prior to the erecting furnaces, for the fusion of lead ore.

On the lower Chester road, as it is termed, on the slope of a

hill whose aspect is towards Flint, about a mile from the village of Northop, the prospect opens in a most gratifying manner; but the scenery, to have its most pleasing effect, must be viewed at high-water. When it is the time of low ebb, the estuary of the Dee dwindles into a narrow insignificant stream; circumscribed by long, broad, and dreary banks, or rather a beach consisting of an intermixture of sand and ooze. At full tide the Dee assumes the appearance of an arm of the sea, when it is enlivened by numerous vessels, floating on the surface, and which spreading their varied canvass to the wind, as they make the numerous tacks, with the town of Great Neston, Parkgate, and other villages on the opposite shore, are seen to advantage, and produce a very pleasing effect.

Eulo castle, from being situated in a sylvan dingle, is with some difficulty found, without the assistance of a guide; though it lies, not more than a quarter of a mile out of the Chester road. The ruins exhibit the remains of a large tower, that on the adverse front was of a semicircular shape, measuring on one diameter, about fourteen yards; and on the other, nearly twelve. This appears to have been further defended by a kind of horn work, now consisting of a ruined wall. At the extremity of an oblong area, or court, is a ruined circular tower, finely ornamented with the clinging ivy. The whole appears to have been isolated by art, or nature; one side by a deep ravine, running beneath it; and the other by a wide artificial foss. To shew the necessity of attending to etymology, as a branch of knowledge, closely connected with general and particular history, a brief quotation from the father of British topography, and whose statements, considering the time in which he wrote, must be admired for their accuracy; will sufficiently demonstrate. "*Hoele* communely caullid in Englische Poele, and as some say, it is the same name, that we called Hughe."

"*Hoele*, a gentilman of Flyntshire, that by auncient accustume was wont to give the bagge of the sylver harpe to the best harper of North Walys, as by a privilege of his auncestors, dwellith

military manœuvres, and of the effects produced by examples, set by commanders. In this second attempt, within the same year, to repair the damages sustained at Euloe, and to recover the disgrace his arms suffered on that occasion, it is extraordinary, that the king, by no means deficient in martial talent, should suffer himself to get into the same difficulties, his detached brigade had experienced so recently before; and be himself entrapped in the same snare. The defeat, from the above authentic, though brief narrative, was so disastrous on this second rencontre, that several of the chief barons, and knights were slain: and such was the confusion, produced in the English army, by the promptitude and courage of the Welsh, that a general panic seized the most heroic in the field. The hereditary standard-bearer, *Henry de Essex*, a man of acknowledged valour, found his courage forsake him on this trying occasion: he flung down the royal ensign, and under the influence of fear, arising from an unfortunate apprehension, cried out 'the king was slain!!!'

A modern author, speaking of this place, is at a loss to know the exact line of road, which the crusaders, viz. archbishop Baldwin, and his co-itinerant chaplain, 'pursued from Basinwerk to Chester; but most probably it was through Flint, Northop, Euloe, and Hawarden, at each of which places there are some remains of antiquity*.'

Giraldus, however, in plain terms gives a clue to the road they took, the only one, then, passable through the mountainous defiles of the country. For he states, that having taken up their abode at an abbey, which he denominates a cell, for one night; on the morrow they proceeded by a long and tremendous journey, to 'Coleshulle,' or the hill of coal: and after experiencing great trepidation by being obliged to pass the pathless desarts, through the dense and darksome woods in the vicinity they left on their right hand, alias the south, the place where Henry the second on invading the country, and commencing

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 399.

mencing hostilities with the ardor of youth, without the experience of age; and neglecting the wisdom of antiquity, daring to enter a fortified wood, suffered for his rash presumption, in thus having imprudently thrown the military die*.

Giraldus†, living in an age of miracles, falsely so called, when the pretence was set up, and the power blasphemously assumed, without the sanction of that awful Being, who alone, and only can, suspend the general laws, by which the system of the universe is governed or controuled; relates a story, that if true, would be a very valuable document; as corroborating the multifarious instances of instinct in some parts of the brute creation, approximating so near to reason, as to confound physiology, and perplex inquiry, respecting the intermediate link, which forms the concatenation. And still further, in an historical point of view. For it would tend to prove, that the generally received opinion, of king Edgar having extirpated wolves, out of this portion of the island, by a commutative tax, as before alluded to, is an error, which without due investigation, has been improperly handed down, as a fact to posterity. A young Welsh gentleman, who fell in this battle,

* "Transeuntes in cellula de Basingwerk pernoctavimus. In crastino vero longum vivumque per loca sabulum non absque formidine permeantes, silvestria de Coleshulle, id est, secundus nostris diebus cum primo Walliam hostiliter intravit, juvenili impetu et inconsulto calore, arctum illud silvestre penetrare præsumens, cum detrimento suorum et damno non modico ambiguam bellorum aleam expertus est*."

† In hac eadem sylva de Coleshulle interfecto juvene quodam Cambrensi per exercitum prædicti regis transeunte, leporarius ejusdem inventus est per octo fere dies absque cibo domini cadaver non deseruisse, sed illud à canibus, lupis, et avibus prorsus indemne fideliter et admiranda in bruto dilectione conservasse. Quis itaque patri filius; quisne Euryalo nisus: quis Tydeo Polynices; quis Pyladi Orestes, hunc dilectionis affectum exhiberet? Ob hujus igitur eventus gratiam leporariique favorem, diutina fere jam fame confecti, ab Anglorum populo Cambriæ gentibus inimicissimo corpus jam fœtidum debito humanitatis officio est tumulatum†.

* "Itinerarium Cambriæ," p. 145, quarto edition, published 1806.

† "Itinerarium Cambriæ," p. 147.

battle, it is said, was discovered eight days afterwards; whose corpse was prevented from becoming the prey of voracious fowls, wolves, and other wild animals by the guardianship of his faithful dog; which attended the carcass, for that length of time; and must have been, as destitute of food, the while, in a very emaciated state. This instance of fidelity, the monk compares to the inseparable friendship between Nisus and Euryalus; Polynices and Tydeus; Pyladus and Orestes; deciding at the close, in favour of the brute creation. It is, however, a different instance in conduct of the kind of dog, the *Leporarius*, or greyhound*, previously adverted to, from a description of Froissart; though it accords with the one given of Llewelyn's Kelert, in the account of Caernarvonshire.

HAWARDEN,

Commonly called *Harraden*, or *Harding*, is a considerable town, neatly built, containing according to the census taken in 1801, 760 houses, and a population amounting to 4071.

This place, like many others, owed its origin to the erection of the *castle*. At an early period, it had, as a territorial property, two names; one in Welsh *Pennard halawg*, signifying the head of the salt marsh, it being to the north of the extensive flat, lying between this place and Chester, known by the appellation of Saltney marsh: a principal part of which is within the precincts of this county. Though an excellent road was formerly made, and a canal running parallel with it, cut

* Dr. Caius says, it takes the English name of greyhound "quod precipui gradus sit inter canes", standing the first in rank among dogs. And from an ancient British adage, "*Wrth ei Walch ei Farch a'i Filgi ye adwaenir Bonheddig*, it was a mark of distinction among the Welsh, at an early period: for the interpretation is, that you may know a gentleman by his hawk, his horse and his greyhound. Indeed by the forest laws, enacted during the reign of Canute, in England, no person beneath that rank, was permitted to keep a dog of this kind."

cut for the conveyanceof coals to the vessels navigating the Dee. But the one is in a neglected state, and the other intirely disused. This tract appears to have been granted, as pasturage for the abbey of Basingwerk, by *Robert*, lord of Mold, who annexed a similar privilege, at the same time to the inhabitants of the township of Hawarden; it having received the new appellation of *Haordine* in the Saxon Dom-book. This was probably an early British post of the Cornavii, who prior to the desperate opposition of the Ordovices, had to defend this part of the country, against the invading Romans. *Truman's hill*, as it is called, with several other ancient fortified heights in the vicinity, formed after the British manner, afford corroboration to the conjecture.

Hawarden appears to have been a strong hold of the Saxons, and on the invasion of William the conqueror, was found in possession of *Edwin* the valiant, but wicked sovereign of Deira; a region of which the present Northumberland formed a part. The Saxon prince had been assisted by the father, and on his demise, attempted to pay the grateful tribute due, in waging war against his successor, and son*. Here on driving the Welsh prince from his territory, the miscreant, or misguided King, had probably a palace, a residence, from whence he might hear, if not see, that his cruel orders had been executed; and where he might enjoy the vindictive pleasure of receiving the communications, that his exterminating plans had been carried into effect.

At the conquest this place was comprehended in the singular grant, previously mentioned, made to Hugh Lupus; and afterwards was held by the tenure of *seneshcalship*, under the earls of Chester; by the family of *Monthault* or *de Monte-alto*; who after becoming barons of Mold, were made still more illustrious, or at least increased their armorial bearings, by one of

 them

* Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 142; and Bedæ Hist. Ecclesiastica, Lib. I. Cap. IX.

them marrying Cecilia, a daughter of Hugh D'Albany, earl of Arundel*.

It was probably built soon after the Conquest, for it appears to have been in possession, according to a respectable genealogical authority†, of *Roger Fitzvalerine*, a son of one of the numerous adventurers, that espoused the cause, and followed the fortunes, of the Norman conqueror. The Monthault family, who held it subordinately, as stewards in the palatinate of Chester, made it their principal residence; but upon the ancient title of that earldom becoming extinct, this with the other fortresses annexed to the honour, were resumed by the crown.

A very curious and singular piece of history is connected with this fortress, arising from those contingencies of warfare, which no sagacity can foresee, nor limited power prevent: certain occurring circumstances, which if laid hold of with promptitude, pursued with vigour, and conducted by wisdom, evince in the agents political prowess; and lead almost to a certainty in the event, to a successful issue.

> "—— There is a tide in human things,
> Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."
>
> SHAKESPEARE.

On the breaking out of a rebellion, the potent earl of Leicester, having obtained possession of Henry the third, and his son Edward, after the battle of Lewes; committed the latter to close custody in the castle of Hereford; and carried the other about, as a state pageant, to further his insurrective designs. In 1264, this intriguing *Simon de Montfort* held an amico-political conference at this place, and entered into an iniquitous league, with Llewelyn prince of North Wales, by which each reciprocally pledged his honour, to promote the execution of their respective plans. A peace, or rather truce, was by this compact,

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 826.
† Collins's Peerage, Vol. I. p. 48.

compact, made between the marches of Cheshire, and the Welsh frontier; and in the succeeding year, June 22d, after a variety of manœuvres, the captive monarch was, under existing circumstances, necessitated to renounce his assumed rights, with the other unjustly acquired possessions; when this fortress, with several others, were conditionally given up; and the still more mortifying sting to the feelings of the invader, the sovereignty of Wales, and the homage and fealty of its baronial suffrage: the barons being obliged, by the treaty, to make their submission for their tenures to Llewelyn the prince of Wales, instead of Henry king of England. By a treaty, the consequence of this, signed at Montgomery, it was agreed, that in future, the Dee should be the boundary from Wiral in Cheshire, to Holt in Denbighshire; and thence in a direct line to Pengwern, the present Shrewsbury*.

On the suppression of this rebellion, which had been instigated and conducted in a masterly manner, by the earl of Leicester†, Hawarden reverted to the crown; under ecclesiastical, or rather papal power, by an admonitory bull, issued ex cathedrâ from the reigning pope, to *Ottoboni*, the then legate to the Welsh prince, requiring him to surrender what territory he had lately taken, the strongholds it comprised; and an unconditional dereliction of the late confederacy. Though the mandate did not produce the desired effect, at the moment, it soon after operated in a powerful manner; for it

* This is differently related in Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Vol. II. p. 124. ' But the "Annales Cestrenses" are probably a better authority.

† Of one of these Welsh expeditions, in his father Henry's time, there is a letter preserved by Matthew Paris, from a soldier of fashion, describing the distresses of the English army in very spirited terms. "We lie here" says he "watching, praying, fasting, and freezing; we watch for fear of the Welsh, who beat up our quarters every night; we pray for a safe passage homeward; we fast, for hardly have we any food, the half-penny loaf being raised to five pence; and we freeze for want of warm clothing, and having only a linen tent to keep out the cold*."

* As quoted in Yorke's Royal Tribes, p 58. See also Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. I. p. 845.

brought about a disunion amongst the parties. The lords of the Marches, desirous of liberating prince Edward, made a grand effort, and obtained possession of the whole country, lying between Hereford and Chester. This occasioned a revolution, favourable to the royal cause. Leicester broke up under these varying circumstances with Llewelyn, joined the more powerful side; and after many conflicts, disgraceful to both, he condescended, for the sake of putting an end to an unprofitable contention, and with a view to re-cement the union; the Earl made an offer of his daughter, *Eleanor de Montford*, to the Prince of North Wales: which according with the amorous disposition, and the policy of Llewelyn, was a proffer not to be rejected.

From the treaty arising out of this co-incidental pacification, it is probable the castle was destroyed by the command of Llewelyn; for among other articles of agreement, the Prince stipulates to restore to *Robert de Montalto*, his lands in Hawarden; and restrains him by an additional clause, from erecting any castle, fortress, or stronghold for the ensuing thirty years.

The restrictive injunction, however, like all such as are dictated in a tyrannical spirit, unsupported by an adequate force, fell, from its imbecillity, to the ground. For it appears, that during the insurrection, headed by David a Welsh chieftain, who had been recently reconciled to his brother, and led on his valiant men to exonerate his country from the partial load of oppression, took the castle in 1281 by a coup de main; made prisoner the justiciary of Chester, Roger de Clifford; 'and horribile dictu' put the whole garrison to the sword*.

This, and other desperate acts of the two brothers, soon brought things to an issue; the total subjugation of Cambria to the crown of England. He did not, however, long survive this massacring system, for his cruelties were quickly punished, by retaliative justice.

"After

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 286.

"After the death of Llewelyn, and the subjection of Wales, David suffered for this in a most severe and distinguished manner; being the first in England who died as a traitor in the way in use at this time. He was a prince of a most unamiable character, equally perfidious to his brother, his country, and to Edward, his benefactor and protector. In the writ for his trial (which was before the whole baronage of England) Edward enumerates his kindnesses to him in this pathetic manner. Quem susceperamus exulem, nutriveramus orphanum, ditaveramus de propriis terris nostris, et sub alarum nostrarum chlamide foveravimus, ipsum inter majores nostri palatii collocavimus. The last proved his greatest misfortune. He might have pleaded exemption from the English jurisdiction, and flung a strong odium on the tyranny of the conqueror, had he not accepted a barony, a seat among the English peers. He was in the same situation as the duke of Hamilton in later times; who denying the power of the court, was told that he was not tried as a Scotch peer, but as earl of Cambridge, a peerage bestowed on him by his unfortunate master.

David was condemned to four species of punishment; to be drawn by a horse to the place of execution, as a traitor to the King, who had made him a knight; to be hanged for murdering Fulk Tugald, and other knights, in this castle; for his sacrilege in committing those murders on *Palm Sunday*, his bowels were to be burnt; and finally, his body was to be quartered, and hung in different parts of the kingdom, because he had in different parts conspired the death of the King*."

After the death of David, Hawarden appears to have been in the family of Montalt, for a considerable period; and owing to the variable nature of property, arising from the uncertainty of life, the demesne descended to the Stanleys, earls of Derby. And on the demise of James, the noble and heroic earl, who being taken in the unfortunate affair, at the fatal battle of Worcester, and beheaded by the insurgents in 1651; it was purchased

* Carte's Hist. of England, and Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. II. p. 948.

chased under the ever-memorable, and commemorative *sequestration act*, by Mr. Serjeant Glynne; a character celebrated as a changling in the various politics of the day: whose peculiar and distinguishing characteristic features, will hereafter be briefly detailed. But a veil shall here be drawn over domiciliary concerns, and the reader's attention merely called to a most interesting point, respecting the consequences, arising out of revolutionary measures. On the Restoration, an order was issued from the house of Peers, that the estates of several noblemen alienated under the late iniquitous statute, above named, should revert to their proper owners. This induced Mr. Glynne, to tender a lease of the estate of Hawarden, for three lives to the Stanley's. The proposal however was indignantly refused, and after an unsuccessful struggle, by various applications to the courts of law, and the paramount authority of Parliament; the earl was obliged to condescend to compound for his own freeholds: and after obtaining, in this manner, his previously purloined property; he for a consideration, granted it to Mr. Serjeant Glynne, his heirs, assigns, &c. and it is now vested in the family, as part of the domains of Sir Stephen Glynne, bart.

"It appears by these proceedings, as if the Parliament was fearful of the consequences of even an act of justice; for, during the long troubles, there had been such vast change of property, effected by such variety of means, that it was apprehended, that the enquiry into the causes, and the dispossession of numbers who had quietly enjoyed such property from their fathers, might be attended with the most inflammatory consequences. It is likewise probable, that many of the members might be interested in the event; therefore, they were determined to stop at once any proceeding, that might tend to affect the fortunes of themselves, or friends. Numbers of sales were made by the loyalists, under the influence of fear. They were content to receive a trifle for the purchase, rather than lose the whole by violence; for there were very few who had not incurred a premunire under the ruling powers, which they

were glad to get clear of, by a seeming voluntary sale. When they were thus disappointed in the hope of re-enjoyment of their fortunes, they laid the blame on the King, and invented the calumny of his rejecting this bill, after it had been passed unanimously by both houses *."

During the civil wars, it suffered that vicissitude of fortune, as it is falsely termed, which most of the strongholds did in the island, on that occasion. At an early part of the contention, it was seized by the anti-royalists, and garrisoned with parliamentarian forces; being treacherously given up by the betraying governor. An attack was made upon it in the year 1643, with a handful of men, as it were, that had been by the duke of Ormond, dispatched from Ireland, under the command of lieutenant colonel *Marrow*. These having landed near Tre-Mostyn, proceeded to invest the castle of Hawarden; and attempted to reduce it to submission, by a verbal summons, sent with an Estafette, accompanied by a trumpeter, as the avant-courier. This produced several written communications between the Royal cavalier, and the commanders of the fortress; strikingly illustrative of the complexion of the times †. But after all the efforts on the side of the loyal cause, had not fresh resources been found, more physical power applied, and the necessity on the part of the defenders, owing to a want of provisions, affording additional strength to the assailing party, the menacing eloquence might have been unavailable for a considerable period. So after a fortnight's siege, and much ink and little blood spilt, the castle being in want of provisions, was surrendered to *sir Michael Earnley*, on

 condition

* Pennant's Tours, Vol. I. p. 131, and Drake's Parliamentary History, XXIII.

† The ridiculous letters, that passed between the contending parties, recorded in Rushworth's Collections, Vol. II. display a mode of gasconade, worthy to be placed with the account of battles, fought between Cranes and Pigmies; that of 'Thomas Sandford, *captain of firelocks*' is a fair specimen of Rhodomontading menace.

condition to march out with half arms, and two pair of colours; one flying, and the other furled: and to have a convoy either to Wem or Nantwyche.'*.

The royalists appear to have been in possession of the castle subsequent to the surrender of Chester. On March the 17, 1645 after sustaining a close siege, for one month, it was by the king's mandate reluctantly given up by the governor, Sir William Neal to general Mytton; and on the 22d of December in the same year, the parliament, alarmed for their own safety, arising from opposite factions, and disaffection among their troops, ordered this with four other castles, they had obtained possession of in North Wales, to be dismantled; that is, so far, as to be rendered for some time untenable.

The present remains, had it not been for the laudable curiosity of the present worthy possessor's grandfather, would have furnished but a very inadequate idea of this, for a long period, important fortress. He caused a vast quantity of rubbish to be removed; and the foundations laid open; by which it seems to have been of a pentagonal shape, with a strong square entrance gateway, on its widest side; and on another a kind of barbican. At one angle was placed the keep, or citadel, consisting of a circular tower nearly intire. The other parts comprise fragments of walls, and various buildings; parricularly some artfully contrived subterraneous rooms, supposed to have been appropriated, as places of confinemen, for the security of prisoners. The situation was eligible, being on an eminence, and was further defended by broad and deep fossa. These now form picturesque ravins, being filled with timber trees of fine growth. The ruins have lately been inclosed within.

Hawarden Park, the seat of the late *sir Stephen Glynne, bart.* whose heir is at present a minor. The house a handsome modern structure, was erected in the year 1752, by Sir John Glynne. Numerous paintings decorate the different apartments;

* Rushworth's Collections, Vol. II. p. IV.

ments; but the collection principally consists of portraits. Four pictures, part of the collection, made by sir Kenelm Digby, representing in half length, the evangelists, have considerable merit. They are considered the production of VALENTINE, who copied the style of CARAVAGGIO, and evidently improved upon the model he studied.

Among family portraits are two of that amphibological character, the able political lawyer in the time of Charles the first, and during the interregnum, SIR JOHN GLYNNE. He received his academic education at Hart Hall Oxford, and afterwards studied at Lincoln's Inn, where he became a bencher. His talents were quickly discovered by the popular party; and through the tide of opposition, he was soon buoyed up above the common level. He became steward of Westminster, was returned for two Parliaments that sate in the year 1640; was made recorder of London; and at length lord chief justice of the upper bench. His elevation appears to have been owing to the active part he took, in the impeachment of the earl of Strafford; and the arraignment of the twelve bishops. The former unfortunate peer observed on the conduct of the prosecution, that Palmer and Whitelocke treated him like *gentlemen*; though they omitted nothing material, that could be urged against him! but that Glynne and Maynard, acted towards him like *advocates*. Butler in his Hudibras had probably this circumstance in view, when he thus facetiously glanced at the two characters.

> "Did not the learned *Glynne* and *Maynard*,
> To make good subjects traitors, strain hard*."

The crafty Cromwell made him one of his council, and placed him on the committee, appointed to inquire into the title, most proper for the usurper to assume; on which occasion the learned serjeant informs his patron, that a *monarchical* government

* In the late bishop Hurd's elegant work intituled "Dialogues and letters on chivalry, is a curious illustration of this subject by a supposititious posthumous conference.

government essential to the settlement of the nation, when the Kingly office had previously nine years before, in 1648, been voted by the ruling powers, to be not only unnecessary, but burthensome and dangerous*.

He contrived to keep in office till the Restoration, when, like the notorious vicar of Bray, he prudently and promptly determined to submit to the new government; and by the most barefaced adulation, that ever disgraced the calendar of flattery; after having been one of the ablest supporters of the protectorate, he was received by the reinstated King with the most distinguishing attention; and obtained honorary marks of royal favour; for he was appointed prime serjeant, himself knighted, and his eldest son created a baronet. He appears however to have been of considerable service, by sitting in the convention Parliament, as a representative for Caernarvon; assisted by his advice, to obtain the act of general amnesty; and particularly in his judicial capacity, establishing the first precedent of granting a rule for *new trial*, in cases where excessive damages had been awarded by the partial, or inconsiderate verdict of a jury. The late possessor of Hawarden made very considerable improvements, both to the house and park. By turning a public road in a different direction, including the ruins of the castle within the pleasure grounds, which are extended, and ornamented with numerous plantations; taste has greatly embellished a residence, that is seen to advantage at both approaches, on the roads leading from Chester and Mold.

The *Church* is a plain good building; but not remarkable as an architectural structure. The powers and emoluments annexed, form an object of more distinguished consideration. The benefice is an anomaly, as to the usual form of episcopal government, for, though the lord of the manor, as patron presents, and the bishop of Chester, as the diocesan inducts; yet the rector has a peculiar exempted jurisdiction; having the power to grant matrimonial licences, register wills, give probates; and perform all acts of a suffragan, except ordination, and

* Drake's Parliamentary History.

and confirmation. For the exercise of such privileges he holds a kind of consistorial court; where, attended by his proctors, he presides as judge. But the living, as it may well be called, is a striking instance of one, among the numerous irregularities, that arise in the course of time, under the best intended authorities; and of those excrescences, which for want of occasionally regulating the system, grow out of it, and deform the fairest constitution. The annual revenues are now calculated at full, if not upwards of, *three thousand pounds*. The parish receives two hundred per annum from the river Dee company, granted under an act of parliament, passed for improving the navigation of the Chester channel, as a commutation for the privilege of inclosing eight hundred acres of land, belonging to Hawarden; which lying on the north side of the river, was deemed essential, to carry the project into effect; either for securing the channel, or remunerating any losses, that might accrue to the adventurers in the undertaking*.

CAERGWRLE WITH HOPE.

These are here joined, because, though at present two distinct villages, the former is comprised in the latter, as the parish of Estyn, or Hope; and conjunctively form a prescriptive borough, which together with Flint, &c. as previously observed, sends one member to the British senate. To this Leland alludes, when he observes. "The tounе of Hope now decayid was sumetime burgesid, and privilegid, and is caullid yn Welch Cairgorles. Ther stonde yet great walles, of a castell set on hylle, wher be diggid good mille stonis of a blew girthe†."

The etymology of the name given to this place, suggests the idea, that it was once occupied by the Romans; *Caer-gawr-Lle*,

* For a further account of this company, see Beauties, Vol. II. p. 231, and Pennant's Hist. of the parishes of Whiteford &c. p. 186.

† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 36.

gawr-Lle, or the camp of the gigantic legion: the Britons having conferred that distinction on the twentieth, or victrix, to which this was an equivalent appellation. Hence originated the fabulous story of Chester, their principal station, having been built by a mighty giant, called *Lleon Gawr*.

The conjecture of its having been once in possession of the Romans, has been confirmed by indubitable remains of that people. A Roman *hypocaust* or sudatory, a species of vapour bath, was discovered by a gardener, while digging. "It was five ells long, four broad, and about half an ell high; encompassed with walls, hewn out of the live rock. The floor was of brick set in mortar; the roof was supported with brick pillars; and consisted of polished tiles, which at several places were perforated: on these were laid certain brick tubes, which carried off the force of the heat, and thus as the poet saith,

——— Volvebant hypocausta vaporem.
The Hypocausts breathed out a vaporous heat*."

It is well known to persons conversant with history, how partial the Romans, as luxury in their manners increased, were to baths of various descriptions; such as Balnea, Thermæ, Hypocausta, &c. and whose particular work this was, is evidently pointed out, by some of the tiles being inscribed LEGIO XX, or twentieth legion, which was long stationed at Deva, or Chester. In addition to this, large beds of iron scoria, have been discovered near Caer Estyn, the supposed remains of Roman smelting works; and the vestiges of two roads, one in a direction for Hawarden, and the other looking towards Mold, which are traceable in several places. Caergwrle, therefore, appears one of the outposts to the grand station Deva, for the defence of the frontier: and more especially to protect the mining districts.

The situation was subsequently occupied by the Britons, who erected a castle upon the summit of a lofty hill. But in what

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 828.

what period, or by whom built, is not ascertained; yet evidently prior to the reign of Henry the second; for in the reign of Owen Gwynedd, it formed part of the possessions of a chieftain, named Gryffydd Maelor. It afterwards must have been taken by the English forces; because Edward the first made a grant of this stronghold to prince David. Afterward it was retaken, and the king bestowed it on his consort Eleanor; who rested here on her journey for her future acouchment at Caernarvon: whence the name was changed to that of *Queen Hope*. While the king and queen were there, this fortress was either by accident, or design, set on fire, and the interior of the structure burnt *.

In 1307, this castle and manor were granted to John de Cromwell, upon the express stipulation, that he should repair the fortress, then in a ruinous state.

When it was dismantled, or dilapidated are, with the name of its founder, equally buried in oblivion. Churchyard describes it as being in a shattered condition, about the latter part of the sixteenth century; as Leland had done, who had been his precursor in description.

" Cagoorly comes, right now to passe my pen,
With ragged walles, yea all to rent and torne;
As though it had, bin never knowne to men,
Or carlesse left, as wretched thing forlorne:
Like begger bare, as naked as my nayle,
It lyes along, whose wracke doth none bewayle,
But if she knewe, to whom it doth pertayne,
What royalties, and honors doth remayne
Unto that seate, it should repayred bee,
For further cause, then common people see†."

The castle now exhibiting a most picturesque ruin, was erected on the summit of a lofty rock, isolated from the surrounding high land, and precipitous on one side, which formed a natural barrier: and the others that are very difficult of access,

* Yorke's Royal tribes, Note to p. 63.
† Worthines of Wales, p. 282.

was bound by the condition of the grant, after receiving the sacrament, to take an oath on the holy Evangelists, that he would preserve inviolate the privileges of the burgesses, as specified in the said charter: and that he should annually, from among their number, choose two bailiffs, on Michaelmas day. Various privileges and immunities were conferred, according to the nature of the times; all which were re-confirmed by the second patent.

Plas Teg, now the seat of *Mr. Roper*, was built by sir John Trevor, a collateral branch of the Trevalyn family of the same name, in the year 1610. The architect is said to have been the only one of celebrity, in the reign of Charles the first, *Inigo Jones*. This assertion has been doubted, from the style of the building; it not being decorated with the Gothico-Italiam of his early plans; nor displaying the pure Grecian, which by a corrected taste, he acquired in the latter part of his scientific career.

The house, however, is a good mansion, for the time in which it was erected, exhibiting great regularity, and a certain portion of that grandeur, which arises from simplicity of design. It consists of a bold centre, comprising a noble hall, forty three feet long, by twenty three in width; from which a spacious staircase leads to a dining room over, of the same dimensions; and above are three other rooms in gradation. Each angle is flanked by a wing, or square tower, containing also five stories; and the whole is included in a walled court, while the ogee parapets contribute to give it a singular effect.

Heartsheath Hall, belonging to *Guillym Lloyd Wardle esq.* is beautifully situated on a gentle slope on the opposite side of the vale. It is a large handsome modern square mansion, having three fronts, with an excellent range of stables and offices, peeping through fine plantations in the back ground. From the elevated situation, the house and grounds appear to great advantage, from the road leading to Mold.

MOLD

Or Mould, called in Welsh *Yr Wyddgnig*, is a market town, situated in a small, but fertile plain, surrounded by rugged hills, richly productive of mineral treasure. It consists principally of one long and spacious street, comprising 682 houses, and has a population amounting to 4,235.

On the north side is a mount, partly natural, and partly artificial, from whence is a fine view of the circumjacent country, with *Moel y famma*, rising proudly pre-eminent among the Clwydian hills. This mount is now called *Bailey hill*, from having once had ballia upon it; for the Normans taking advantage of an eminence so defensible, made it the site of a strong castle. Though arduous of ascent, from its declivous sides, it was further defended by ramparts, and surrounded by deep fossa. It appears to have been divided into three parts; the lower, and upper ballia, and the donjon, or keep. The only remains are a few stones of the latter building, lying about the artificial elevation.

The fortress was probably erected by *Eustace de Cruer*, who on William Rufus entering the Welsh frontier, enlarged the system of lords Marchers, by creating more, and increasing their powers. On which occasion the above baron, did homage for the territory of Mold and Hopedale*.

In the reign of Henry the first, it appears among the possessions of Robert de Montalto, high steward of Chester; and at that period it was a very strong fortress; had endured several sieges, without being obliged to surrender; for according to history, its first reduction was by storm, in the year 1144; with the Welsh forces commanded by their intrepid hero, prince Owen Gwynedd.

Subsequent to this period it suffered many vicissitudes; sometimes being alternately in the hands of the different belligerent parties; and was completely demolished during the desperate struggle, maintained under the extraordinary prowess, displayed

* Welsh Chronicle, p. 151. In Wynne's History of Wales, p. 117. Edition of 1774 this nobleman is named *Eustace Omer*.

by Owen Glyndwr. It was subsequently re-edified; and again, in 1267, wrested from the hands of the English; and finally destroyed by Griffith ap Gwynwyn*. Soon after it was rebuilt, and restored to the family of Montalt. When, from want of issue male, it reverted to the crown.

The *church* is a very handsome edifice evidently built in the time of Henry the seventh, from the style of architecture, according with ecclesiastical structures, erected about the same period. The windows are wide having obtusely pointed arches, and the walls, towards the parapet, are decorated with the representations of various animals, carved in stone. It consists of a nave, and two side ailes, with a tower at the west end. The latter though a more recent structure, is in a corresponding style: an uniformity not commonly observed in modern architectural reparations, or additions. The interior is florid; and though wanting in chasteness of design, is not inelegant. The pillars, supporting the arches, that separate the ailes from the nave, are clustered columns, composed of four round pilasters; which, with their foliated capitals, assume the appearance of lightness, and taste. Above these, between the arches, are angelic figures, presenting shields, respectively charged with some emblem, allusive to the Saviour's passion; or the arms of such benefactors, who contributed towards the erection of the edifice. Among the former is a *Veronica*†: and among the latter, different quarterings of the Stanley family.

A mural monument has a label, with two figures, as supporters, one representing an angel, and the other a bishop.

The inscription,

ROBTUS PMISSIONE DIVINA EPSCUS ASSAV.

This is a cenotaph to the memory of *Robert Warton*, alias *Parfew*, who was abbot of Bermondsey in Surrey; and in the year

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 279.

† This is a representation of a precious relique, preserved in St. Peter's church at Rome viz. the face of Christ, impressed on a handkerchief: which, as the legend states, was presented to him on his way to crucifixion; and by

year 1536, was elected bishop of St. Asaph. Having been a great benefactor to this place, induced some persons to pay him this postumous tribute of respect.

In the south aile is a superb monument, commemorative of *Robert Davies Esq.* of Llannerch, who died May 22, 1728, at the age of forty-four. This affords one of those numerous instances of that licence, taken by artists, which can only be tolerated, when directed by taste, or dictated by necessity. It consists of a fine figure, not badly executed, in a standing attude; but to misguide, instead of instructing posterity, clad after the *Roman costume.* This practice, so often adopted by statuaries, cannot be too much reprobated. If the arts are to be subservient, which they certainly were intended, as handmaids, to history, then they ought to represent things, as they really are; and not by laws of misrule, become the powerfully operative causes of perpetual aberrations from truth.

"To shew
The very age and body of the times
Its form and pressure."

Some little allowance, with respect to dimensions, or size of the figures, may perhaps be allowed the sculptor; but the garb, visage, &c. &c. should be strictly copied, as tending to elucidate the manners and customs of different countries, and distant ages. Anachronisms of this kind, tend to destroy the unities, both of time and place, and confound things, which propriety dictates should ever be kept separate and distinct.

An epitaph, composed by Dr. Wynne for himself, and engraved on the stone, during his life time, deserves notice, not so much from the excentricity of the thing, as its containing a laudable testimony against interment within the walls of a place intended for devotion: and sets an example, strongly reprehensive of sepulchral flattery.

William Wynne of Tower, D. D.
Some time fellow of All Souls College Oxford,

by wiping his face received the miraculous stamp. This was denominated *Vera Icon*, or the real image, which receiving adoration, was soon personified, and placed in the calender, under the name of *St. Veronica*.

and rector of Llanvechan in this diocese,
departed this life [March 3d 1776
aged 77 *.]
In conformity to an antient usage,
from a proper regard to decency,
and a concern for the health of his
fellow creatures, he was moved to give
particular directions for being buried
in the adjoining church-yard,
and not in the church.
and, as he scorned flattering of others
while living, he has taken care to prevent
being flattered himself when dead,
by causing this small memorial to be
set up in his life-time.
God, be merciful to me a sinner!
Heb. DDUW, Heb-ddim.

In the vicinity of Mold, are large cotton mills for spinning the wool into thread, belonging to Messrs. Knights and company. Several seats, the residences of independent gentlemen, who live on their own estates, which became thus divided by the operation of the law, called gavel-kind, decorate this part of the country.

Leeswood belonged to the late *sir George Wynne*. It is a large handsome mansion, situated on a fine slope, surrounded with lawns and woods. The grounds, entered by a most magnificent gateway, are tastefully laid out, and from some parts of them is obtained a most commanding and diversified view.

Tower, or *Bryn Coed*, belonged to the late *Dr. William Wynne*, of facetious memory. This, though not a large edifice, is curious, as affording a singular kind of domestic architecture of considerable antiquity. It is a specimen of what are termed *border houses*, on the confines of England and Scotland. The structure is a square tower, consisting of three stories, and in the ceiling of the basement is still shewn a staple, by which, with

* The dates, included within brackets, were added after his decease, in the parts left blank for the express purpose.

with a rope summary punishment was inflicted upon the men of Yale, that fell into the hands of those inhabiting Ystrad Alyn.

NERQUIS HALL, the seat of *Miss Gifford*, is a fine old mansion, built in 1638, by John Wynne Esq. near which stands Nerquis chapel, remarkable in this part of the kingdom for having what is termed a *spire* steeple.

To these may be added FRON, PENTREHOBIN, GWYSANEY, and RHUAL, the seat of *Thomas Griffith Esq.* The house is a good structure, built by Evan Edwards esq. in the year 1634; and like most of the mansions, erected in Wales about that period, is in the form of a Roman H. This style of domestic architecture was adopted at the commencement of the seventeenth century, and practised more, or less, till the close of it. By marriage it was conveyed into the present family. Here is a small collection of paintings, among which is a portrait of the founder by *Vandyck*; and two fine heads of Richard earl of Dorset, and his countess the celebrated Anne Clifford, done on wood. Several family pictures executed in a style, evincing great merit in the artists, are by two, omitted in Mr. Walpole's list, *Edward Bellins*, and *Gilbert Jackson*; and who flourished about the year 1632.

Near this latter is *Maes y Garmon*, or the field of Germanus, celebrated in history for the decisive victory, obtained here in the Easter week, A. D. 448, by the British christians, over the combined pagan Picts and Scots. The Christian army was led on by the two missionary bishops from Gaul, Germanus, and Lupus; the former of whom, appears to have been appointed to the command; which having accepted, he ordered a general shout, previous to the commencement of the action, and the word he gave was Alleluia. This thrice repeated by the attending priests soon was quickly caught by the soldiers, who bellowed out the sacred sound, with such extatic force, that the re-echoing hills, by their reverberations, struck terror into the enemy; who from dismay were confounded, and flying on all sides were pursued by the Britons; so that few were left alive to relate to their friends, the disastrous story. This victory, from

the above circumstance has by most historians been denominated ‘ *Victoria Alleluiatica.*’ A pyramidal stone column was erected on the spot, in the year 1736, by Nathaniel Griffith esq. the then possessor of Rhual; on which is the following inscription commemorative of the sanguinary event.

“ Ad annum
CCCCXX
Saxones Pictique bellum adversus
Britones junctis viribus susciperunt
In hac regione, hodieque *Maes Garmon*
Appellata: cum in prælium descenditur,
Apostolicis Britonum ducibus Germano
Et Lapo, Christus militabat in castris;
Alleluia tertio repetitum exclamabant,
Hodie agmen terrore prosternitur;
Triumphant
Hostibus fusis sine sanguine;
Palma side non viribus obtecta.
M. P.
In victoriæ allelucaticæ memoriam.
N. G.
MDCCXXXVI*.”

Kilken is visited by travellers for a sight of the church, which has a remarkably handsome carved roof, brought from Basingwerk abbey on the dissolution of that house.

In this parish is Kilken Hall, the property of *Thomas Mostyn Edwards, esq.* near which is the *Ffynnon leinw*, which Camden mentions as flowing and ebbing with the flux and reflux of the tide. But as it exhibits no such phenomenon at present, it is reasonable to suppose, the statement must have been made upon some mistaken authority. It is a large oblong, well, surrounded by a double wall; and from the circumstance of its being generally full, obtained the epithet, from *Lleinwi* to fill.

Moel

* Mr. Griffith appears to have copied an anachronism of archbishop Usher in stating the time in which the battle took place. Rymer in his Fœdera, Vol. I. 443, mentions the event, as happening about 447; and Mathew of Westminster in his History 152-154, fixes the date A. D. 448.

Moel y Famma, the highest point of the Clwydian hills, has lately been selected, from being so conspicuous to the surrounding country, as the spot, to commemorate the unusual event of a british king reigning for fifty years. At the meeting of the nobility, and gentry of this, and the adjoining county of Denbigh, to celebrate the jubilee, held on that anniversary, it was unanimously resolved, to erect some monument on an advantageous site, as a lasting memorial of that event. A subscription was immediately entered into for defraying the expence; and a committee formed for receiving the names and donations of others, favourable to the measure: a plan, proposed by an ingenious and able architect, *Mr. Harrison*, was approved of by the committee; which after some little further deliberation, was finally adopted, and is now putting in execution.

In the vicinity of Kilken are very considerable lead mines and other works. *Pen y Fron* belonging to Mr. Ingleby is incalculably rich, having one vein consisting of solid ore, from four to five feet thick, exclusive of numerous smaller seams: and seventy tons of ore have at times been obtained in the course of one week. The work is often impeded, particularly in wet weather, with the influx of water which is drained off at a considerable expence by means of pumps, worked by a steam engine aided with a water wheel. The ore is mixed with a small portion of Black jack, and is therefore not so valuable as what is obtained higher up the stream.

Llyn y Pandu vein found in Cefn Kilken a spot of ground, held under a lease granted by lord Grosvenor belonged to the late spirited and indefatigable miner and manufacturer John Wilkinson esq. This contains one head of solid ore upwards of six feet wide; another four feet, and the width upon the bottoms that is the extremity of a drift or level, on an average two feet for an extent from eighty to ninety yards. The ore dug is of two kinds, denominated by the miners blue, and white: the former yielding sixteen hundred weight of lead per ton, and the latter thirteen.

The smelting houses range on the margin of the river, so that the ore immediately as dug is reduced by fusion into metal; cast into pigs, and a portion of it manufactured almost on the spot. A mill, belonging to the former work, for rolling lead into sheets, has its apparatus put in motion by a water wheel.

Moel Arthur, is another lofty portion of the Clwydian hills, on which is a fortified camp, after the British manner; which was, to select the most inaccessible heights, and to render them still more defensible, on their assailable sides, by the addition of deep ditches, with lofty banks, formed either of earth, or loose stones; the area having generally only one entrance: seldom, or ever, more than two. The camp of Caradoc, which that prince occupied, previous to his caption by the Romans, so laconically described by Tacitus, is a fair specimen of such strong holds, " Tunc montibus arduis, et si qua clementer accedi poterant, in modum valli, saxa præstruit*." The one in question exactly answers to this description, it having two very deep fossa, with corresponding valla, on the approachable sides; and on the precipitous one, is a smooth terrace, apparently levelled by art, for exercising the troops. This was a post, that formed one link in a chain of fortifications, originally formed for defending the country of the Ordovices, and subsequently occupied by their successors, for a similar purpose. This line commenced probably at Diserth, but evidently at Moel Hiraddug, a rocky hill in the parish of Cwm, near the sea, on the north side of the county; and passing in a south easterly direction, fronted the territory, possessed by the Cornavii.

Beneath this hill, is the little pleasant valley of Nannerch, watered by the small river Wheler; which having its origin here, hastens through the connected valley of Bodfari, to join its waters with the Clwyd.

Penbedw Hall, a good mansion, the residence of the late *Watkin Williams Esq.* is an ornamental object in this fertile tract: and at a small distance from the house, is a carnedd or tumulus,

* Annales, Lib. XII. c. 33.

tumulus, and a few upright rude stones, apparently the remains of a Druidical circle.

Bodfari has generally from the name, and other circumstances, been conjectured to be the *Varis* of Antoninus. But neither Mr. Pennant, nor his investigating friends, could discover, after the minutest examination, any vestiges of its ever having been a residence of the Romans. The disappointments, arose from having been misled, perhaps, by a name. For it is highly probable, that Caerwys was the site of the station in question; and while the latter lost the name, being sunk under the British appellation, this, as an adjacent village, retains its original distinction *Bod-Vari*, or a township, belonging to the station Varis.

Bachegraig in a flat, embosomed with woods, is a singularly constructed mansion, built of brick, late the property of *Seignior Piozzi**, in right of his wife of literary celebrity, the widow of Henry Thrale, esq. and daughter and heiress of John Salusbury esq. The house consists of a kind of centre, with three adjoining sides, or wings; which form a quadrangle, inclosing a square area, called the court. The principal part comprises a hall, with an adjoining parlour, of unusual dimensions; and the other parts of the building are carried up to the height of six stories in a *pyramidical* shape, terminating with a cupola. From the nature of the plan, many of the rooms are small, and the whole, for hospitable residence, extremely inconvenient. Some painted glass in the windows represent the arms, appropriated to the knights of the *Holy Sepulchre*; and one shield bears a family coat charged with a heart, inscribed

1567
RC
S

The date refers to the time the building was erected; and the initials, pointing to the name of the founder, in conjunction with

* Mr. Piozzi died in the year 1809, and a misnomer occurs in what genetally is a very accurate obituary, " died March——at his seat Brynbela, in Denbighshire

with the Christian name of his lady, have beneath, the allusive motto, " *Cor unum, via una.*" From this and some letters on the front, with the date 1567, and on the entrance gateway 1569; it appears to have been erected by sir Richard Clough, in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

Sir Richard Clough was one of those extraordinary characters, that occasionally arise, to check the arrogance assumed from birth; and to moderate, if not repress, the exclusive claim to greatness, set up by persons, who boast of their high descent, for he could say " stemmata quid faciunt." He was the son of a person in a very low menial situation at Denbigh: and by his natural talent, and active energies raised himself into notice; acquired wealth, and obtained dignity. His first step in life was becoming a chorister in the cathedral of Chester. Afterwards he was apprenticed to the celebrated sir Thomas Gresham; and in the course of a few years connected with him, as a partner in trade. He soon rose into eminence as the most distinguished merchant in Antwerp, in which city the latter part of his life he chiefly resided, and where he died, and his body lies interred, except the heart, which was transmitted in an urn to England, and deposited in the church of Whitchurch in his native county.

He appears to have been of the Roman catholic religion, having probably imbibed those principles, by long residence among people of that persuasion. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he was made a knight of the Holy Sepulchre; and then adopted the badge of the order, the five crosses for family arms. He accumulated so much wealth, that his name became proverbial, like that of Cræsus, " *Efe a aeth yn Clough,*" or he is become a Clough. Besides amply providing for two daughters, and a natural son, he left the great tythes of Kilken to the grammar school at Denbigh, and gave several thousand pounds

Denbighshire Gabriel Piozzi, esq. husband of Mrs. P. the once justly celebrated Mrs. Thrale*."

* Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. 78. part 1.

pounds towards erecting the Royal Exchange: so that he may be considered a joint founder with sir Thomas Gresham, of that public structure. On the latter person the greater part of his wealth is said to have devolved, according to an early commutative, or mutual agreement, that one, or other should have the benefit of survivorship. Sir Richard died first, and the boon descended to sir Thomas, who lived till the year 1579.

CAERWYS

Or *Caergwys*, a small market town, containing, according to the returns made to parliament, 162 houses, and 773 inhabitants, derives the name from *Caer* a fortified city, and *gwys* summons; it having been originally a Roman station, and afterwards a seat of judicature*: the assize, or great sessions for the county of Flint being held for several centuries at this place. But its former magnificence is extinct, the glory of it gone, its beauty faded, and the fame only remains. "Stat nominis umbra." Camden observes, that, 'the name favours much of antiquity, but I observed nothing there, either ancient, or worth notice.' *Caer*, however is the name the Britons gave to a place, or station, that had been fortified, or occupied by the Romans, and this exhibits a Roman plan, the streets crossing each other at right angles: and numerous copper coins

* It appears from the grievances laid before John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, who had *ex professo* constituted himself arbitrator between king Edward the first, and prince Llewelyn, that the men of Tegengl, or Tegengyl, complained of a gross infringement of their privileges, by the justiciar of Chester; and asserted it was their indubitable right, to be tried according to the laws of Wales, and at the usual places for decision, either Rhuddlan, Tref Edwin, or Caerwys. Afterwards it recovered its privileges, had its municipal buildings, and was of considerable consequence for centuries; till about the middle of the seventeenth; when the juridical business was removed to Flint*.

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 287. &c. Appendix p. 382.

coins of different emperors also were discovered, sometime since, in a field below the town. There lately remained an upright stone bearing a Latin inscription, in rather uncouth letters.

HIC JACIT MULIER BO.....OBIIT———".

This stone measuring four feet six inches in height, and three in breadth, was evidently sacred to the memory of some heroine, who probably fell in battle at the period the Romans were in possession of this island*. A tumulus is near the site, and numbers more are scattered about the vicinity. The measurement in a direct line nearly answers to that, laid down in the Roman Itinerary of Antoninus; where the distance between Varis and Conovium is stated at nineteen miles; by the present road it is somewhat more; but till the relative proportions of a Roman *mille passus*, and the English statute mile, be ascertained, it will be impossible to arrive at accurate adjustment.

In subsequent ages this town had to boast of being the Athens of North Wales, as the place where a kind of British Olympics were performed, it being the seat of the *Eisteddfod*, or sessions of the Bards and Minstrels: the grand theatre, where in honourable contention they tried their skill, poured forth their extemporaneous effusions, awaked their harps to melody,

" And gave to rapture all their trembling strings."

Under the British princes the Bards and Minstrels were associated in corporate, or rather collegiate bodies; into which none were admitted, but such as had given proofs of their skill in the respective sciences, before proper judges appointed to preside on the occasion, under a formal commission from the princes of Wales; and, after the conquest of the country by the English, from a similar instrument of authority, issued by the kings of England.

It

* This has recently been removed, and placed in Mr. Pennant's gardens at Downing.

It has been observed by Mr. Andrews in his history, that the tale of Edward the first's cruelty to the Bards, has no foundation, but an obscure tradition; and a slight hint in the history of the Gwydir family. An edict probably might have been issued at that time, for imposing silence on an order whose power was great, from the influence it possessed over the passions, and prejudices of the populace; but it appears, that successive monarchs thought it prudent, as a political measure, to have recourse to the same means, and encourage a similar description of persons, to mollify the rude manners of a ferocious people.

With the Celtic nations the Beirrd, called Bardi in Latin, it has been observed possessed very great authority, from the nature of their office, and the implicit confidence of the people. The German tribes were roused to energy, and animated in battle, by verses, delivered in a deep and solemn tone by this order of men*. And among the Gauls they panegyrised the characters, by emblazoning the actions of eminently heroic, or virtuous men; and particularly eulogised the memory of such, as fell in their country's cause†. And though the institution is now dissolved, and the character officially no more: yet those who 'born with music in their souls, and wish to feast on raptures ever new,' will consentaneously say,

"But hail ye mighty masters of the lay,
Nature's true sons, the friends of man and truth!
Whose song, sublimely sweet, serenely gay,
Amus'd my childhood, and inform'd my youth.
O let your spirit still my bosom sooth,
Inspire my dreams, and my wild wanderings guide!
Your voice each rugged path of life can smooth;
For well I know, where-ever ye reside
There harmony, and peace, and innocence abide‡."

Probably Minstrels, as well as Bards, were under certain regulations in the time of Druidism. The former evidently were an

* Tacitus de Moribus Germanorum.
† Strabo, Lib. IV. p. 302.
‡ Beattie's Minstrel, book the first.

an existing order, as well as the latter, in the seventh century; for it is stated of Cadwaladar, the last pendragon of Britain, who died at Rome in the year 688, that being attended by his nobles at an assembly similar to those about to be described, a minstrel performed on the harp, in so discordant a manner, or in such a dissonant key, that a royal mandate was issued, prohibiting him and all others of his order, under pain of a most severe penalty, from ever playing on it any more: and ordering, that they should, in future, adopt that of *Mwyen Gwynedd*, or the pleasing one of North Wales.

Subsequent regulations were made respecting these orders by Bleddyn ap Cynan, contemporary with William the conqueror, which were afterwards confirmed by Gryffyd ap Cynan*, who reigned in the time of Henry the first, and king Stephen. These restricted the calling by excluding from the number *soi-disant* performers: for it was enacted, that no persons should follow the profession of bard, or minstrel; but those who had regularly graduated at the Eisteddfod, or sessions, held for the purpose, every three years. They were not to degrade themselves by following any other occupation, were prohibited from invading each other's province, and the remuneration for their services fixed by a legal tariff.

Numerous triennial meetings, or sessions of this kind, were held, for giving regularity and consequence, to a description of men, deemed politically necessary, after the English were in possession of Wales. But as the English laws prevailed, this necessity gradually ceased. An Eisteddfod was held at this place on July 2d, in the fifteenth year of Henry the eighth, at which time some of the ancient laws, respecting Bards and Minstrels, which appear to have been in later ages confounded together,

* This prince is said to have introduced the harp, and crwth into Wales, "who being born in Ireland, and descended by his mother's side of Irish parents, brought with him from thence several skilful musicians, who invented almost all the instruments as were afterwards played on in Wales*."

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 159.

together, by some unaccountable misake, were referred to, and professedly confirmed.

The last legal commission for opening an Eisteddfod, was granted in the year 1568: which runs in the following form:

"By the Quene

"Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, Quene, defender of the fayth, &c. to our trustie and ryght wel beloved *Sir Richard Bulkley, knight, Sir Rees Gryffith, knight*, Ellice Price Esquir, Doctor in cyvill lawe, and one of our counsail in our marches of Wales, William Mostyn Jevan Lloyd of Yale, Jhn Salusbury of Ruge, Rees Thomas, Maurice Wynne, Willm Lewis, Peres Mostyn, Owen Jhn ap Ho^e Vaughan, John Willm ap John, John Lewis Owen, Morice Gruffyth, Symound Thelvall, Ellice ap Wm Lloyd, Robt Puleston, Harry Aparry, William Glynne, and Rees Hughes, esquio^rs, and to every of them greeting. Whereas it is come to the knowledge of the lorde president and other o^r said counsail in o^r marches of Wales, that vagraunt and idle psons, naming themselfs, mynstrells, rithmors, and barthes, are lately growen into such an intolerable multitude w^in the principalitee of North Wales, that not only gentlemen and others, by theire shameless disorders, are oftentimes disquieted in theire habitacons; but also thexpert mynstrells and mucisions in toune and contry therby much discouraged to travail in thexercise and practize of theire knowledge; and also not a little hyndred in theire lyvings an pferm^s. The reformacon wherof, and the putting of these people in ord^r, the said lorde president and counsail have thought verey necessarye, and knowing you to be men both of wysdome and upright dealing, and also of experience and good knowledge in the scyence, have apointed and authorized you to be commissioners for that purpose. And for as much as o^r said counsail of late, travayling in some pte of the said principalitee, had pfect understanding or credible report, that thaccustomed place for the xecucon of like comssyon, hath bene heretofore at Caroyes in our countie

of Flynt; and that William Mostyn esquior, and his ancestrs have had the gyfte and bestowing of the sylver harpe apptayning to the cheff of that facultie, and that a yeares warning at the least hath bene accustomed to be geaven of thassembly and execucon of the like comissyon. Our said counsail have, therfore, apoynted the xecution of this commissyon to be at the said towne of Caroyes, the Monday next aftr the feast of the blessed Trynitee, wch shall be in the yeare of or Lorde God, 1568*.

" And therefore we require and command, you by the authoritee of these psents, not only to cause open pclamacons to be made in all ffavors, mrketts, townes, and other places of assembly wthin our counties of Anglize, Carnrvon, Meyryonneth, Denbigh, and Flynt, that all and evry pson and psons that entend to maynteigne theire lyvings by name or color of mynstrells, rithmers, or barthes, within the Talaith of Aberfiowe, comphending the said five shires, shal be and appeare before you the said daye and place, to shewe their learnings accordingly: but also that you, XX, XIXtie, XVIIIen, XVIIen, XVIen, XVen, XIIIIen, XIIIen, XIItie, XIn, Xen, IX, VIII, VII, or VI of you whereof youe, Sr Richard Bulkley, Sr Rees Gruffith, Ellice Price, and Wm Mostyn, Esquiors, or IIIee, or II, of you, to be of the nombr to repayre to the said place the daye aforesaid, and calling to you such expert men in the said facultie of the Welshe musick, as to you shall be thought convenient to pceade to thexcution of the pmissr, and to admitt such and so many as by your wisdomes and knowledges you shall fynde worthy into and undr the degrees heretofore in semblable sort, to use exercise and folowe the scyences and facultes of theire pfessyons in such decent ordr as shall apptaigne to eche of theire degrees, and as yor discrecons and wisdomes shall pscribe unto them, geaving straight monycons and comaundms in

* This was the last Eisteddfod held at Caerwis, The prize was adjudged by Sion ap William ap Sion.

SEBRIGHT MSS.

in or name and on o^r behalf to the rest not worthy that they returne to some honest labor and due exercise, such as they be most apte unto for mayntenaunce of their lyvings, upon paine to be taken as sturdy and idle vagabounde, and to be used according to the lawes and statutes provided in that behalf, letting you wyth o^r said counsail look for advertisem^t by due certificatt at your handes of yor doings in thexecucon of the said pmis^s. For seeing in any wise that upon the said assembly the peas and good order be observed and kept accordingly assertayning you that the said W^m. Mostyn, hath pmised to see furnyture and things necessary prided for that assembly at the place aforesaid. Geven under o^r signet at o^r citie of Chester the XXIIIth of October, the nynth yeare of o^r raigne.

Signed her Highnes counsaill, in the m^rches of Wales."

Thus runs the commission for holding, or keeping this kind of act at Caerwys; on which occasion *Sion ap William ap Sion* was appointed judge of Prize.

By virtue of this deed an Eisteddfod was held on the 26th of the following May, when numerous persons were admitted to their respective degrees, as vocal and instrumental performers: among the former, four were created Chief bards of vocal song; seven Primary students of do: three Secondary do. and three Probationary students of do. Among the latter three Chief bards and teachers of instrumental song on the harp; five do. but not privileged as instructors; four Primary students of instrumental song on the harp; five Secondary do. and three probationers. Of performers on the Crwth two were elected as chief bards and tutors; four as chief bards, without the privilege of instructing; one as primary student; seven secondary students, and four probationary ones. It is a kind of bathos in honorial distinction, that players on the crwth, however excellent, or whatever their respective merits might be, were ranked, like tabourers and pipers, among the ignoble performers. There appear to have been four degrees in the poetical, for

the vocal performers were supposed to sing their own compositions, and five in each department, of the musical faculty. The probationer was styled *y dyscyble yspas*, or the lowest disciple; who if a candidate for poetic honours, was obliged to shew, that he not only understood the construction of five species of Englyn; but also that he was able to compose them extemporaneously in the presence of an officer, denominated a *Pencerdd*; and conscientiously declare at the same time, he was possessed with the *awn*, the true furor poeticus, or poetical genius.

When he became a graduate, he was termed *Dyscybl dyscyblaidd*, or a disciplined disciple. To arrive at this honour, he must previously have been acquainted with twelve different metres, and produced specimens of each, as his own compositions.

Succeeding to this honorary distinction, he went on to that of *Dyscybl Penceirddiaidd* or candidate for the superior degree of Pencerdd. For this the qualifications requisite were still higher. He must be able to compose in twenty one species of verse; and then he was made *Pencerrd*, or chief in that faculty, on which occasion he received the badge of a silver harp, or that of a golden, or silver chair, emblematic of the magnificent chair, in which he was seated at the ceremony, that took place when invested with the high degree.

The distinctions obtained by instrumental performers were nearly similar to those above recited.

—— " Some there were Bards, that in their sacred rage
Recorded the descents and acts of every age;
Some with their nimble joints that struck the warbling string,
In fingering some unskill'd, but us'd to sing
To others harp; of which you both might find
Great plenty, and of both excelling in their kind,
That at the Stethva oft obtain'd a victor's praise;
Had won the silver harp, and worn Apollo's bays:
Whose verses they deduc'd from those first golden times,
Of sundry sorts of feet, and sundry suits of rhimes.

In

In Englins some there were, that in their subject strain;
Some makers that again affect a loftier vein,
Rehearse their high conceits in cowyths; other some
In owdells theirs express, as matter traps to come.
So varying still their moods, observing yet in all
Their quantities, their rests, their censures metrical;
For, to that sacred art they most themselves apply;
Addicted from their birth to so much poesy,
That in the mountains, those who scarce have seen a book
Most skilfully will make, as though from art they took."

From this period the Welsh bards were treated with supercilious contempt, by the court of London; minstrelsy in consequence also became neglected, and the calling of the eisteddfod ceased from that period.

In the year 1798, an attempt was made to restore this literary congress by the *Gwyneddigion society**, the members of which, having the honour of their national celebrity for music and poetry at heart, were anxious to revive an institution, calculated to excite that talent, long latent, for want of encouragement and produce by rivalry, that skill in harmony, and excellency in poety, for which the country had through centuries been famed.

This eisteddfod, though not called by Royal authority, appears to have been numerously and respectably sanctioned. After the ancient usual notice of twelve months, and one day, had been duly given. The company met on the 29th of May, in the Town hall of Caerwys, which had been previously fitted up for their reception. A considerable portion of the lovers of harmony in the Principality, and adjacent counties, attended the meeting; and among those who appeared as candidates for prize, were reckoned twenty bards, vocal performers eighteen,

* This *North Wales* society, comprises a number of spirited gentlemen, chiefly resident in London, who entered into an association for the encouragement of Welsh literature, and by whose laudable exertions, much recondite matter, relative to history and the arts, has been brought to light, from manuscripts that, for centuries, were buried in oblivion.

teen, and harpers twelve. The Thesis was judiciously chosen, as being congenial to the spirit of the ancient Britons, and peculiarly allusive to the occasion of their assembling together. "The love of our country, and the commemoration of the celebrated Eisteddfod, held at the same town, and under the same roof, by virtue of a commission from queen Elizabeth."

The productions were numerous; many written in an animated strain; and some possessed very considerable merit. The displays of art, also were entitled to a great share of excellence.

The first day was spent in reading, and comparing the poetical works of the different candidates for the Cadair, or Chair; the second was occupied in hearing the vocal and instrumental performers exhibit their respective powers; and on the third, the prizes were adjudged, the nominal honours conferred, and the assembly dismissed.

HOLYWELL,

Or *Treffynnon*, derives its name from a remarkable fine spring, that rises at the bottom of the hill just below the town; and which, till interrupted by mills, belonging to divers manufactories, hurried its waters through a picturesque glen, with remarkable rapidity to the sea.

The origin of this natural fountain, in legendary story, is ascribed to a miraculous event. A damsel, born of noble parents, her father, *Thewith*, being a potent lord in this district, and her mother Wenlo, descended from a noble stock in Montgomeryshire; who resided together near the present site of Holywell. *St. Beuno*, either uncle, or brother, superintended her education; and erected a church on the spot, for the religious instruction of others at the same time. A neighbouring prince, or chieftain, named *Cradocus*, smitten with her beauty, became so enamoured of her charms, as to fall violently in love: and roused into impassioned vehemence by the assumptive coyness of the maid, he was determined to have that

that by force, which a few blandishments, or smiling attentions, would soon have obtained for him consenting possession. The fair, like Daphne, fled from her suitor, who pursued her with the ardency of intemperate desire, and disgusted with her affectation of horror, drew out his sword, and at one blow severed the head from the body; which rolling down the hill, rested on a certain spot below, near the church. A most copious spring instantly burst forth, waters gushed out, and a powerful stream irrigated the valley, which, from its remarkable dryness, had previously received the appellation of *Sychnant*. But this was a simple concomitant of the story. The head of the virgin was more fortunate, and wonderful, than that of Orpheus, which is reported to have sung a farewell elegy, as it floated down the Hebrus, after having been cut off by rival Siconian ladies; for it was not yet destined, to hold its tongue, nor close its eyes. St. Beuno * with a chirurgical skill, not possessed by the faculty of the present day, took up the head, re-adapted it to the body, and, 'mirabile dictu,' after a few prayers, alias incantations, the dissevered parts instantly and spontaneously re-united; leaving only the impression of cicatrization, visible as a slender white line, encircling the neck, of the resuscitated maid: merely as an evidential mark to those, who might examine into the nature of the miracle†.

The assassin is reported instantly to have suffered the retaliating vengeance of heaven; for being struck dead by lightning, the earth, opened her jaws, and swallowed at one mouthful the impious corpse. Higden observes, the crime was visited

* St. Beuno it has been previously noticed, built the monastery of Clynnog vawr in Caernarvonshire, to which his votaries in after ages used to repair. And as Fuller in his quaint manner observes, "if the tip of his tongue, who first told, and the top of his fingers, who first wrote, this damnable lie, had been cut off, and they had both been sent to attend their cure at the shrine of St. Beuno, they certainly would have been more wary afterwards, how they reported, or recorded such improbable truths*."

† See Fleetwood's Life of St. Wenefrede, published in 1713.

* Worthies of Wales, p. 38.

upon his posterity, and that even the descendants of the monster, were afflicted by horrible judgments, which could only be escaped, or removed, by an expiatory sacrifice, made at this well; or at the shrine, in the conventual church of the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul at Shrewsbury; where the bones, as precious reliques had been removed: a story humorously recorded in the monkish Latin lines.

" Ad Basingwerk fons oritur
Qui satis vulgo dicitur.
Et tantis bullis scaturit
Quod mox injecta rejicit.
Tam magnum flumen procreat
Ut Cambria sufficiat,
Ægui qui dant rogamina
Reportant medicamina.
Rubro guttatos lapides
In scatebris reperies
In signum sacri sanguinis,
Quem Venerede virginis
Guttur truncatum fuderat.
Qui scelus hoc patraverat,
Ac nati, ac nepotuli
Latrant ut canum catuli
Donec sanctae suffragium
Poscant ad hunc fonticulum;
Vel ad urbem Salopiæ
Ubi quiescit hodie*."

A different fate attended the devout lady, for she survived her decollation; and as previously stated, was interred at Gwytherin in the county of Denbigh. But the memory of the miracle was not in like manner to be committed to oblivion, or buried in that land, where all things are forgotten. No, not only did healing streams flow from the spot, but the moss†, growing near the fountain were possessed of a peculiarly fragrant scent; and the blood that spotted the stones, like the flower into which Venus transformed her unfortunate favourite, Adonis, annually commemorates the fact, by assuming on the 22d of June, colours not observable on them at different times of the year.

The supposed sanative virtues of these waters from their professed miraculous origin, formerly attracted numerous pilgrims; and St. Wenefrede's well was looked upon with the eye of credulity, as another Bethesda. Here all kinds of infirmities, to which poor corporeal man is incident, received a healing

* Polychronicon in Gale's Scriptores, Vol. III. p. 190.

† *Jungermannia asplenioides*, and *Byssus jolithus*

healing power; and to the present day, crutches, barrows, and other votive offerings, as trophies of the astonishing cures performed, are placed in a pendent position over the well. So late as the seventeenth century, its reputation seems to have been preserved, for 'the Prince, who lost three kingdoms for a mass, payed his respects to the saint, August 29th 1686; and received in return for the royal compliment, the chemise in which his great grandmother, Mary Stuart, lost her head.' The celebrity, however, has had its day. Few of the great, now honour this lady of the lake, with a visit; and the resort of devotees has been rapidly on the decrease. In the summer months a few persons from the adjacent counties, frequent these fontinalia, for the purposes of bathing in waters, evidently endowed with every good quality, arising from purity and frigidity.

The spring is perhaps one of the finest in the kingdom. From experiments and calculations made, to ascertain the quantity of water, thrown up per minute, it was ascertained, after repeated trials, in one instance to amount to the extraordinary quantity of *twenty one tons*; and in another, to eighty four hogsheads. But that in time of drought, or after wet weather, the flow is equal, must be placed among those vulgar errors, arising from assumption, and propagated by credulity. Those, whose experience extends to years, affirm, the variation is extremely great; that in summer there is frequently a diminution of one third, or more; and after violent rains, the increase is in a greater proportion.

Happily for this part of the country, as well as the community, the waters have been made subservient to much wiser purposes, and appropriated to more important uses, than those to which they had long been dedicated under the influence of superstition. In the course of nearly two miles from their first appearance out of the rock, to their confluence with the Chester channel, the stream they form, contributes to work one corn mill, four cotton manufactories, a copper smelting house,

supposes one, probably, might be traced to a Druidical custom, "the *Deiceal*, or Deisol, or turning from the east to the west, according to the course of the sun. In some of the Western isles the custom is still preserved with great devotion. *Deas* signifies the right hand, and *sul* the sun, from the ceremony being performed with the right hand always next to the circle, carn, or whatsoever they surround. It is possible that this custom might have been applied to our saint, and the words Deiseil or Deisol, corrupted for that purpose for Dydd-sol, for giving particular sanction to the Sunday in question*."

In Doomsday book, neither chapel, church, nor well, are mentioned, whence bishop Fleetwood concluded, that the story must have been the invention of monks, living in a subsequent period. But with deference to that high authority, it may be remarked, the name of Holywell is Saxon, probably bestowed upon it previous to the conquest, on account of the reputed virtues of the spring; and the sanctity attached to it by the legendary story of St. Wenefrede, written before the making of that celebrated survey. It is however a little singular, that Giraldus, although in his crusade through Wales, A. D. 1187, he lodged a night in the parish, is silent on the subject. And as he was ever ready, to relate any thing, partaking of the marvellous, Dr. Powel has from this circumstance fixed a lower date; and ascribed the fiction to the monks of the neighbouring abbey at Basingwerk†.

Above the church a precipitous hill impending over the little valley, through which the rivulet flows, called *Bryn y castell*, was the site of a fortress, belonging to one of the powerful lords marchers, Randle or Ranulph the third, earl of Chester; who in the year 1210 fortified the castle of Treffynnon, or St. Wenefrede; and in the mean while Llewelyn invaded the earl's country, and after committing great ravages returned

* Hist. of Whiteford &c. p. 227. And for a further discussion of the subject see Borlase's Antiquities of Cornwall, p. 124 &c.

† See Annotationes Itinerarium Cambriæ.

returned with the booty to his own territory*. Not the smallest vestiges of the building are now left remaining. The privilege of holding an annual fair, and a weekly market was obtained for the place, by the influence of the monks belonging to Basingwerk abbey. But the first appears to have been early dropt, and the second long disused; till it was renewed by letters patent, dated June 20th 1793, granted to sir John Egerton, bart. After this it became a good corn market; but since selling by sample has become too general a practice, that has declined; and it is principally held now for the sale of butcher's meat, and other necessary articles of provision.

The town till the beginning of the last century was very inconsiderable, the houses few, and mean, the greater part being roofed with thatch.

According to a manuscript document in bishop Tanner's memoranda, respecting the diocese of St. Asaph, the number of families in 1686 were 274, of which 41 were enumerated as recusants.

Since that period, owing to manufactures the population has greatly increased, particularly in the township of Greenfield. Mr. Pennant supposed in 1795 the houses might amount to 1000, 400 of which were in the town; and the inhabitants from 7000 to 8000. The returns made to Parliament make the number different: viz. houses 1146, inhabited by 5567 persons; of whom 2643 were returned, as employed in trade and manufactures.

The church, which was in the year 1769, newly erected on the same site, and with equal dimensions of the one, which from the columns separating the present nave from the ailes, was supposed of the early Norman period; is a plain neat structure having a square tower at the West end, but it is inconveniently situated below the town, from which circumstance, though the steeple is furnished with one bell, yet the sound is audible, but in a certain direction; and at a very small distance.

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 227.

distance. To summon the inhabitants to their public devotions, therefore, recourse is had to a method which to a traveller, unacquainted with the necessity, appears ludicrous in the extreme. A person, hired for the purpose, as *precentor*, applies round his neck a leather strap, to which is suspended a bell of considerable size and weight, and over one of his knees is fastened a cushion. Thus accoutred, a little prior to the commencing divine service, he proceeds through the principal streets, tinkling his tintinnaculum every time the cushioned knee comes forward as he advances in his progress.

Besides the church, here are three other places of worship, two for Roman Catholics, and one for protestant dissenters.

The situation of Holywell is exceedingly pleasant, being on the slope of a hill, productive in lead ore, which rises finely at the back of the town, and from its vicinity to the estuary of the Dee, to which an opening is formed by a pleasing wood-fringed valley, the air is highly salubrious: and to those, who are fond of cold bathing; or whose cases require ablutions of that nature, few places are more eligible. The waters are good, the accommodations comfortable, medical advice is ready; and the body may be exercised, while the mind is entertained, by taking the various and diversified rides, or walks in the vicinity. For though commerce has invaded the district, and the noise and bustle of business have disturbed the quietude of these sylvan haunts, by the erection of numerous manufactories; yet the valley through which the rivulet flows, still abounds with picturesque scenes, and affords an unique kind of beauty, arising from the charms of nature, being united, or rather, combined with divers specimens of human art. But to furnish a concise account of the mining system, and the mechanism connected with it, in this small tract, would far exceed the limits, prescribed to the present work: a brief sketch, therefore, is all that can be given with references to other descriptions, and to a sight of the operations on the spot.

The grand mining concern termed the *Holywell level*, commenced in the year 1774, under leases, granted to a company,

by

by the several landed proprietors, through whose estates the veins of lead were supposed to extend. These were sir Pyers Mostyn, bart. Thomas Pennant, Esq. Peter Parry, Esq. Edward Jones, esq. and Mrs. Mary Williams. This appears from the account, given by one of the proprietors, who made a subterraneous voyage, to visit this grand work: to have been, what may be truly denominated a *venture*; for the concern after thousands had been expended, at one period, proved an unprofitable speculation: yet by unremitting perseverance, and invincible patience, the adventurers succeeded beyond the opinions of some, though not equal to the expectations of others. After having excavated the rock, composed first of shale, next chert, succeeded by limestone, for about the distance of six hundred yards, the workmen met with a rich vein, that tended to raise the hopes of their employers, and give additional vigour to their exertions. But notwithstanding they procured a quantity of excellent ore, it by no means amounted to a sum, adequate to the expence incurred, in driving the level. A few years since, they were more successful; and striking upon a rich vein of great thickness, they have been able to remunerate themselves for the disbursements, and wearisome labour of many anxious and distressing years.

The level is carried horizontally into the hill; and while it furnishes a compleat drain to the work, it forms a canal for the delivery of the ore; so that persons, wishing to see the anterior of the mine, must go by water; and small boats are used on the occasion. Those, except being flat at bottom, are something like Indian canoes, long in the beam, pointed at each end, and worked along the stream by the workmen shoving them with levers, applied to the rocky sides of the level. From this horizontal archway, numerous vertical shafts have been cut; some short, for the pursuit of the mineral veins; and others grassing to day, for the admission of air into the mines. The subterrene passage, which exceeds a mile in extent, is well worthy of a visit. The various caverns, whence the ore has been dug, the glimmering lights, that cast a doleful shade over the

the depths beneath; the hollow sounds of pent up air, issuing from the numerous fissures; together with the reverberations, arising from the tremendous explosions by gunpowder, in blasting the rock, in order to separate the ore from its matrix, combine to form a whole, most awefully grand. From one of these caverns, whose 'fretted roof' is embossed with calcareous spars, a rich vein, nearly six feet in thickness, dips in an oblique direction, that amounts to about an angle of forty-five degrees towards the horizontal level.

The products obtained from the hill, through which the level is driven, are most of them turned to a profitable account.

First, *Limestone*, burned in kilns for the purposes of building, and as a manure.

Second, *Chertz*, or Petrosilex, ground for the use of the potteries.

Third, *Lead ore*, of two kinds, viz. cubic, or dice ore, used for glazing earthen ware; and white, or steel-grained ore, which contains a certain portion of silver.

Fourth, *Calamine*, an ore of zinc; which mixed with copper, in the proportion of one part to three, forms the useful metal, denominated brass.

Fifth, *Blende*, another species of Zinc-ore, called by the miners, from its livid colour, *Black jack*, containing that semi-metal, combined with pyrites, or iron and sulphur in a state of commixture.

The number of workmen varies at different times; and the wages given also, owing to the great fluctuation in the sale of lead: so that it would be difficult, to furnish any account of the persons, or their remuneration, which for any length of time would appear to have the semblance of precision. Sometimes lead ore fetches from thirteen to fifteen pounds per ton; and at others, not more than seven, or eight: the agent is obliged therefore to reduce, in the latter case, the profits of the miners, who work by the gret, and deliver according to agreement, the ore at the mouth of the level, or on bank, at a stated sum per ton. Their wages, however, have not been at any period,

adequate to the nature of their employment, and the risques they run. Exclusive of damps, falling in of roofs, &c. &c. and being liable to all those acute and chronic diseases, that proceed by quick transitions from heat to cold, and vice versa, together with the circumstance, that they always work in the wet; these poor men are subject to a peculiar, and dangerous malady, which is termed *ballan**. It is occasioned by imbibing the volatile particles of the lead, a most destructive poison, and commences with an acute pain in the stomach, which extends to gripings in the bowels, produced by constipation, and attended with tenesmus, that soon puts a period to the sufferers' life. But should they not fall victims to this disorder, the unwholesomeness of their occupation seldom allows them to arrive at the climacteric of human life.

The various mills and manufactories on the Holywell stream are a large corn mill, that stands near the head of the stream. The upper cotton mill, erected 1787. The old cotton mill, built in 1777. The lower cotton mill in 1785; and the crescent cotton mill in 1790. These belong to a partnership concern, known under the firm, of the 'Holywell cotton and twist company.' The works employ a number of hands for converting cotton wool, into thread of single and double strands, by carding, spinning, &c.

The various processes are performed by that kind of cotton mill, which is an improvement on the one, that, if not invented, was first profitably applied to the manufacture, by sir Richard Arkwright†. The machinery of this stupendous piece of mechanism is wonderfully curious, and at the first view, to persons unacquainted

* It is by some called *Felyn*. From Felyn a mill, changed in composition, from melyn, or melin. "It may be translated the *Mill-distemper*; because it was at first most frequent in the smelting mills; but for a considerable time past it has ceased in these buildings; and that happiness may be dated from the period in which *lime* has been used as a flux for the lead ores*."

† For a particular account of the machinery, and the various processes in the manufacturing cotton &c. See "Beauties," Vol. III. p. 519.

* Hist. of Whiteford, &c.

unacquainted with the concatenating system of wheels, and their co-operating force, the effects produced, must appear like magical creation. To see from thirty to forty thousand wheels and spindles, moving as rapid as lightning, without any perceptible cause, spontaneously performing in a regular, and systematic manner, operations of the most curious nature, must make an irresistible impression on the mind; and give the observer an exalted idea of human ingenuity, whilst he admires the powers of man.

What are termed the brass battery mills, were built in 1766. And a brass smelting house was erected about the same time, to supply the former with plate brass, for making the various articles, manufactured in this once, not only an useful concern for culinary articles, but an African toy-shop; for here were made large brass pans called Neptunes, for the purpose of procuring salt, by evaporation, from sea water, and a variety of baubles for the Manillas. The calamine, necessary to form the compound metal, is procured from the mines of Pen Y Bawn. To render it sufficiently fit for combining with the copper, it undergoes a process called *roasting*, in order to divest it of a certain portion of sulphur, which in a crude state it contains. It is then cleansed as it is called, viz. separated from a quantity of lead ore commixed with it, and then further put into a pulpable shape by calcination. Thence it is carried to a pounding mill for trituration, and mixed with charcoal, a layer of one, and a layer of the other, and the mass is then exposed to the heat of reverberatory furnace; when, after a few hours, the ore of zinc becomes united with the copper, and the compound metal produced, is denominated brass.

The *copper works* belong to the Parys-mine company. These consist of several descriptions of manufactories.

First, Rolling mills, where the pigs of copper are re-smelted, and converted into ingots; and then having been passed between cylindrical rollers, are reduced to plates, or sheets, of a requisite thickness, and a proper size. The copper thus flattened, is principally sent to the different naval depots, for

ships of war; much is used for vessels in the mercantile service; and a large quantity is also bought by the East India Company, who export it, in the shape of copper plates, to China, where they are used for drying teas.

Second, a forge for making bolts and nails, necessary for fastening the copper sheathing; an admirable method for defending the floating oak from the depredation of the worm: a plan which has been wisely adopted by most maritime powers, and is certainly a very great improvement in naval architecture. The bolts are previously cast into a proper form, and afterwards further prepared, by being submitted to the hammer in a cast-iron groove, which gives them the requisite size, and dimensions. Some of these bolts are twenty feet long; and when case hardened, by the rolling and battering process, and hollowed two thirds of the length, by boring, they are capable of being driven through very small auger holes, where the beds of timber are extremely thick. Rudder bands and braces are manufactured here also, and copper nails, &c. &c.

Third, wire mills, where slips of copper, brought from a slitting mill, are converted by means of an engine, consisting of worm-screw-plates into wire, and drawn to any degree of tenuity. The manufactured copper, brass, &c. is shipped on the Dee, at a small distance from the manufactories, and sent to the large warehouses, the different companies possess, at Liverpool: whence it is exported, or carried by inland navigation, to various markets.

These works were principally furnished with copper from the Parys mountain and Mona mines in Anglesea, and numerous vessels were employed for conveying the articles manufactured; but since the death of that very active partner in the concern, Mr. Thomas Williams, and from other incidental circumstances, they are not carried on with the same spirit, nor to an equal extent.

The year 1766 appears to have been the epoch of the trading speculations upon the Holywell stream; at which time a company of adventurers from Warrington erected the first mill for battering copper and making brass.

In digging, for the purpose of laying the foundation of the vast buildings, belonging to the Greenfield copper and brass company, Mr. Donbavand, their respectable and intelligent agent, discovered a Roman *hypocaust*, furnished with nomerous flues, covered with tiles of a red colour: a convincing fact, that some persons acquainted with Roman luxury, anciently resided in this vicinity.

A curious physiological circumstance, relative to the stream, is, that the water wheels, if formed of wood, are soon destroyed or rendered unfit for use. This expenditure of timber is so great from this cause, that a wheel, made of seasoned oak, which, upon a moderate calculation would in most rivulets have lasted thirty years, is frequently unfit for use in twelve. Those made of red-deal, or pine, stand sound the longest, by means of the resinous quality of that species of wood, which resists for a time the assailing powers. These depredators were found to be animalcula, the erucæ, or caterpillars of some species of fly, whether of the Ephemeral, or Phryaneous tribes, has not been ascertained by our entomologists. When they arrive at the age of pupæ, or chrysalides, they are nearly of the same length as in the embryo state. They are produced from eggs, previously deposited by the parent insect, in a species of moss, called by Linnæus, *hypnum riparium;* and when metamorphosed into flies, they take wing instantly, and quit their aqueous element. In the form of larvæ is the state they commit the greatest depredation. During a still day they may be observed, making their appearance, which is ceremoniously announced by a bubble on the water; this bursts, and the insect takes the air, but generally skims the surface of the water before it dares attempt to soar in an ethereal element, or take possession of its new habitation.

In consequence of this, an attempt was made, by the advice of Mr. Tart, a civil engineer, to try the red-deal, well primed and paid, as it is technically termed, with a mixture, composed of tar, pitch, and ruddle; but this was found not to answer the purpose: and then, under the direction of a superior mind, wheels of cast iron were substituted.

The

The village of [illegible] is notable, both for the remains of its ancient abbey, the vestiges of a house belonging to the *knights Templars*, and a *castle*, once the key to this part of the country.

With respect to chronical order, the abbey seems to claim the precedence; though amidst the discordant opinions of authors, who have written on the subject, it is difficult to give a decided opinion.* It appears, however, that a monastic establishment had been established here about the latter end of the eleventh, or beginning of the twelfth century. Tanner, following the authority of Dugdale, † says, that it was founded by Randulph, earl of Chester, A. D. 1131, and that it was probably the first house of the *Cistercian* order, or Bernadines, in this portion of the island. During the perpetual struggles between the English, and the Welsh, it was at times in the hands of each respective party; and the monks, not being partial, or very violent in their political conduct, contrived, by management, to keep well for a time, with both Parties. Henry the second, king of England, confirmed their original grants, and added further immunities; and Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, prince of Wales, was equally a protector and benefactor. The conduct of the English monarch led some historians into the error, that he was the original founder, ‡ and he might have refounded the monastery, or re-edified, and repaired the building; for it probably, standing near to the castle, suffered some dilapidations, while that fortress was levelled to the ground by the forces of Owen Gwynnedd. The inhabitants were likely at the same time changed, for afterwards the abbey appears to have been under English protection. During the preparations made in the reign of Edward the first for the reduction of Wales, two mandates were issued for that purpose, on the required condition, that the monks

* Powel in his Annotationes Itiner. Cambriæ, and Gibson, in his additions to Camden's Britannia, affix the era of its foundation to the year 1318. Knyghton and Brompton assign a date sometime subsequent to A. D. 1150.

† Notitia Monastica, and the Monasticum Anglicanum.

‡ Henricus fundator originalis. Leland's Collectanea, vol. 1. 101.

held no conference, nor kept any connection with Welsh rebels. They seem to have been obedient, and politically attached themselves to the strongest side. Records in the tower contain, among other lists of royal summons, writs for calling the abbot of Basingwerk to parliament, issued in the 23d, 24th, 28th, 32d, and 34th of Edward the first.

From the present remains, a very imperfect idea only can be obtained of the extent, or appearance of the buildings in their original state. The architecture is of a mixed kind, comprising the divers styles, respectively prevalent in different ages. Some portions partake of what is termed *Saxon*, comprising massy walls with circular arches, and short pillars. Others exhibit what has long been improperly denominated *Gothic*, the windows consisting of narrow slips, one, two, or more together, and sharply pointed. The conventual church is only traceable by half-buried foundations. The refectory is the most intire portion left, which has a recess with superincumbent circular arches, where formerly the well supplied sideboard used to have its stand. The columns, or supporters of these arches, are almost unique. They are formed of rounded stones, placed on each other in such a manner, as to assume the appearance of cheeses, piled in a ware-room. Over the refectory was the dormitory. The half timbered building, that is, a wooden frame with bricks laid betweeu the cross beams, adjoining the abbey, Mr. Grose conjectures to have been the granary. The annual revenues at the dissolution Dugdale states at 150*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*

Vestiges of a castle are yet visible in the fragments and foundations of a wall, at a small distance from the abbey, on the margin of Wat's dyke. The founder is said, on the authority of Lord Lyttelton in his history of Henry the second, to have been an earl of Chester. But in the life of St. Werburg, written by Bradshaw, it is said, that Richard on his return out of Normandy, where he had been educated, began his reign with an act of piety. He attempted in 1119 a pilgrimage to the well of St. Wenefrede; but, either in going, or returning, was suddenly surprised, and attacked by the Welsh; and obliged

obliged to take shelter in Basingwerk abbey. Having on the emergency applied to St. Wenefrede for advice and assistance, the saint taking his difficult and distressing case into serious contemplation, and putting his talisman to work, raised up a quantity of sands between this, and the opposite coast; which enabled his constable of Chester with his armed bands, to march over the estuary to his relief; and from that circumstance, the shoal still retains the appellation of the *Constable sands*. It was demolished by the Welsh in the reign of king Stephen, and by Henry the second re-edified, more strongly fortified, and manned with a powerful garrison, shortly after his narrow escape from the ambuscade at Coed Euloe.

The same Monarch, profiting by past experience, left another species of fencible forces; for he establiseed here a house of *knights Templars*,* a military order introduced into England during the preceding reign.

Some portion of the offices, attached to the building, are still remaining; and in the beginning of the last century, much of the principal part of the edifice was standing, having been fitted up, as a dwelling house, by a gentleman in the vicinity.

The chapel belonging to this foundation, is a spacious and handsome structure; the windows lofty and sharply pointed; and the pilasters, which in the interior rise between them, are light and elegant.

* It is no mean observation in history, made by Mathew Paris, that this religio-laic order, at first, consisted of nine self-elected persons, who admitted none into their society, till *Hugo de Paganis*, with five of the brethren, attended a council, held at Troyes in Champagne, to petition for a rule; which being granted, they soon rapidly increased in numbers, and quickly acquired, and also accumulated wealth. By the institutes drawn up by Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, these knights were appointed to *ride* and *tye*, as it is humourously termed; for they were allowed only one horse between two. But before the order was suppressed, they occupied nine thousand houses, similar to this; possessed in different parts of Christendom, nineteen thousand manors, and obtained so much influence and power, as to excite the jealousy of Kings and Emperors; so that pope Clement the fifth, alarmed for his own safety, as well as instigated by others, determined to break the spell by dissolving the partnership.

BAGILLT HALL, a good old mansion, formerly a seat of *Paul Panton, Esq.* stands on a slope amidst hanging woods, near the township of Bagillt. The house came to the Pantons by the grandfather of the present possessor, marrying a daughter, and sole heiress of Edward Griffiths, Esq. This had, for generations, been in the possession of the Griffiths.

A curious instance is recorded of a marriage with a lady of this family, at the time the performance of matrimonial rites were prohibited the ecclesiastical functionaries, and placed in the hands of the civil power, during the interregnum, in the time of Oliver Cromwell.

"Know all men, that upon the eleventh day of Feb ruary in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and fifty five, Richard Griffith, sonne and heire appânt of John Griffith late of Bagillt, in the county of Flint, esq. deceased, and Martha Pennant, the daughter of Edward Pennant, esq. of Bagillt aforesaid, came before me, Ralph Hughes, esq. one of the justices of peace in the county of Flint, and desired to be joyned together in matrimony, and being sufficiently satisfied, that the said intended marriage was published on three several Lords dayes, at the time of morning exercise, within the parish church of Holywell, within which parish the said parties reside, and that noe pson gaynesayed or ptended any cause why the said parties might not be joyned togeather in matrimonie, both of them being of full age and discretion, and the parents of both parties consenting thereunto; and after both parties had pronounced before me in the presence of divers credible witnesses, the words of solemnization mentioned in an act of parliament, intituled, an act of touching marriages, and dated the xxiiiith day of August, 1653, I did pronounce and declare the said Richard Griffith and Martha Pennant to be lawful husband and wife. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and sale, the day and yeare first above written, 1655.

Ra. Huges. (L. S.)

Witnesses hereunto,

"Thomas Griffith,
"Roger Jones,
'John Mostyn.

MOSTYN

MOSTYN HALL, a seat of *Sir Thomas Mostyn*, exhibits a variety of features, highly deserving of attention; both for the antiquity of some portions of the building, and the contents of its interior.

The house is approached by a magnificent gateway, called Porth-mawr, erected at the termination of a venerable avenue of forest trees; which leads to one vestibule of the mansion; an edifice built at different times, and that furnishes curious specimens of domestic architecture. It stands in a small, but beautiful park, well clothed with wood; particularly with noble oaks and spreading beeches, which vigorously flourish, although growing within half a mile of an arm of the sea.

From a view of the mansion, as it appeared in 1684, given from a drawing by a Mr. Thomas Dinely, it seems, that it had originally consisted of a square tower, probably embattled, but subsequently covered with a dome; a large hall, for the display of baronical hospitality; and a lesser one, as a symposium for domestics, with a small chapel, now converted into a dormitory.

The time of erecting the original part of the house cannot be traced. It is supposed as early as the time of Henry the sixth, but the additions and alterations have so changed the face of things, as nearly to obliterate the original character. The *hall*, is the most ancient part of the building; and from being much like the magnificent one at Bolton, in Bowland, Yorkshire, the most ancient house perhaps in the kingdom, favours the supposition of higher date than the assigned antiquity. It is furnished with a *dais*, or elevated portion of floor at the upper end, where the high table was placed, at which sate the lord and his friends: while long side tables, running lengthwise, accommodated the inferior guests. The roof is exceedingly lofty, and crossed with stout beams of very great bearing. The top, or upper one was the subject of a toast, whenever a health was proposed to the master of the house; '*Jached y non bren y ty,*' was the jovial expression at the board. The large fire place which has a massy chimney piece, is decorated with the emblazoned arms of the family, with its numerous alliances: and

the walls are furnished in a style, suitable to the gloomy grandeur of the time: swords, pikes, guns, and other ancient military weapons; warlike furniture, such as helmets, breast-plates, coats-of-mail, &c. together with spoils of falconry, and the chase.

At the end of a gallery is a large room, called king Henry's chamber, and which is memorable for an event, that tends to elucidate a dark portion of English history. It is worthy of remark, that none of our historiographers profess to account for that period, when by the influence of the house of York, the heir of the Lancastrian line was compelled, to leave his retirement in Bretagny, and seek refuge in another country. That asylum appears, from unequivocal testimony, to have been Wales. It is a curious fact, that, Henry earl of Richmond, after that time passed incognito, from place to place, to conciliate the affections and interest of the Welsh; who espoused his cause on account of his Cambrian extraction: he being the grandson or Owen Tudor. Numerous contemporaneous bards record actions of this part of his life in emblematic language; describing the hero, who was to restore the empire to Britons, under the allegorical terms of the *eagle* and the *lion*. While Henry was at Mostyn, a party, attached to the cause of Richard the third, attempted by force, to apprehend him, just as he was sitting down to dinner: but with a promptitude, which ever accompanies men, possessed of great presence of mind, he leaped out of a back window, and made his escape through a passage, to the present day called the King's.

In the year 1631, a considerable addition was made to the house, by its then owner, Sir Roger Mostyn, knt. This, forming part of the present front, comprises a large dining room, drawing room above, with a large bow-window jutting out from each, and six bed chambers.

Numerous paintings decorate the different rooms, among these are various portraits: some of which, done by eminent masters, tend to illustrate both by the dress, and attitude, the flattery of those who depicted, and the vanity of those who sate for the purpose of having their likenesses taken. Out of these

these may be noticed, two, finely executed by Mytens; who after having been painter, or as he is termed, *picturer*, to king Charles the first, left England, and returned to his native place, the Hague. This step he took from a pique at an imagined insult, by the royal favour being conferred on his rival Vandyck. They are representative of *Sir Roger Mostyn, knt.*, who garrisoned his house in favour of royalty, and his lady. The knight is dressed in black, his head covered with a close cap, turned up with Flanders lace; a large ruff round his neck; and breeches of uncommon size, with pointed girdles round the waistband and knee bands; his boots of white leather, with turn down tops, and finished in the same finical manner as the cap; golden spurs; his right hand resting on a stick, and his left on a table, covered with figured cloth, on which is placed a broad-brimmed hat, with a crown of most immoderate size The lady's neck is also ornamented with a single elevated ruff; and she is clad in a long gown with a sash, as a zone, placed up to her armpits; like the no-waisted fair of more modern times: and though she appears to have been a very large sized woman; yet the painter has contrived to give a sort of elegant exility to the embonpoint.

A kit-cat portrait of *Sir Roger*, the first baronet, is still more ridiculously absurd. St. Catharine with her wheel, by *Leonardo da Vinci*, is a very fine picture: and another by one of the *Bassanos*, the subject, of the supper given by Christ to his disciples at Emmaus, would have been an excellent piece, if it had not been disfigured by the back ground, being overcharged with pots, kettles, and other culinary utensils.

A collection of antique statues, busts, bronzes, and other articles, are illustrative of the arts among the ancients. Some of the *busts* are peculiarly fine. One of the elder *Brutus*, represents the patriot in the act of displaying his love to his country, rising superior to private interest, and personal safety; while in dignified eloquence he was consigning to the lictors for punishment, the two imperial enemies of Rome. Two figures of a male and female faun, the latter having the flammeum on the head, though much out of proportion, are well

executed in Alabaster. Among the *bronzes* is a small, but pleasing figure of *Isis* pursuing the infant Orus; others are of a less delicate nature, though admired by amateurs for their symmetry and elegance of design. A speculum, or metallic mirror retains a polish to the present time, that exhibits a surface equal to the reflector of a modern telescope. Exclusive of numerous curiosities, that form a valuable private museum, here is the cake of copper, bearing a Roman stamp discovered at Caerhên in Caernarvonshire; the golden torques, a badge of princely distinction, found at Harlech in Merionethshire; and the silver harp, which the family had the right, granted by royalty, of conferring on any bard, or minstrel, which arrived at a certain degree of excellence in their respective professions.

The *library*, though not a magnificent room is splendidly furnished, containing a fine collection of manuscripts, many of them richly illuminated: with the most valuable editions of printed books, in almost every department of useful and polite literature: and the worthy baronet has another fine collection, rich in manuscript documents, respecting Wales, at his seat of Gloddaeth in the county of Caernarvon. In this library is also an excellent specimen of pencil drawing in black lead on vellum, executed by a celebrated engraver of his time, well known for his "Oxonia Depicta," and other still more more valuable works, David Loggan. The subject is the crucifixion. The expression of the agony in the countenance of the dying Saviour, is most pathetically displayed; and the whole is finished in the most accurate stile of miniature painting. It was hung up in the vestibule, or approach to the chapel, by the desire of the lady of the second baronet of this family, who was of the Roman catholic persuasion, with a view to excite her devotion. The drawing was made from a painting by *Peter Paul Rubens*.

Numerous collieries in the vicinity of Mostyn, with their concomitant strata, exhibit very curious phenomena. Near the shore the cliffs assume a very singular appearance. One, for a considerable extent, looks like the lava, or semi-vitrefied mass,

that has been discharged from some bursting volcano; and its composition has been by some mineralogists considered as identically the same with the fossil substance, found sometimes upon the surface of the ground, or a little below, near the eruptive mountains of Vesuvius or Etna; denominated in Italy *puzzolano*, and by some English writers *tufa*. The strata in front certainly assume a very different appearance from the continuation inwards, and the adjacent sides. The rock evidently from some cause or other is changed both in disposition and colour; for it is porous, and yet extremely hard: and the general complexion, a commixture of red and black.

To those systematic gentlemen, who call in every adventitious circumstance, to support a favourite hypothesis, this cliff must be highly interesting; as it does afford some plausible instance toward the establishment of the Huttonian theory, respecting the formation of the globe. But they should recollect, if they had been previously informed from experience, that tufa has never been hitherto found in regular veins, nor strata of coal in this country. It is formed, and forming in a thousand places of Great Britain; although the remotest symptom was never yet discovered, that any volcano had emitted in this island its liquid fire*. Tufa may be often found at the foot, or attached to the side of a rock; and not unfrequently the veins and hollows are filled up with such kind of matter; as is the case in the present instance. In part of the cliff composed of common sand-stone and shale, is a cave, or fissure, that contained a prodigious quantity of pyritical matter, which spontaneously, took fire, and by the force of the phlogiston it contained, continued burning for some considerable time; and doubtless occasioned the extraordinary phenomenon†.

Another, though not confined to this part of the country peculiarly, may be mentioned as elucidatory of a subject, not generally understood.

* See Williams's Natural Hist. of the mineral kingdom, vol. II. p. 396.

† A detailed account of a similar circumstance, that happened at Charmouth, may be found in Chemical Essays by Bishop Watson. Vol. I. p. 167.

understood. This is the destructive visitor of mines in an aerial shape. The workmen say there are two unwelcome guests, which they denominate the *suffocating* and the *fire* damp. These are called by a writer of apparent ability and credulity combined, 'dæmones truculenti.' Their origin, however, appears to be derived from different causes, than those to which beings of that description owe their existence. The former in the shape of a mephitic vapour composed of carbonic acid gass, produces instantaneous death; and often occasions very great disaster, when the proper precaution, that of trying, whether a light will continue burning in the shaft, or level, has not been taken by the workmen, prior to entrance on their concern. The latter is of an inflammable nature, consisting of hydrogen gas. This collects in remote parts of mines, where there is not a sufficient current of other air to dissipate it. When this vapour is condensed by a small admixture of atmospheric, or common air, in the recesses of the mine, though several hundred yards from the bottom of the shaft; if much exposed to a lighted torch or candle*, it enkindles, and is discharged from its confined cavern, or fissure with a loud explosion, like that of ignited gun-powder, and with a power frequently superior to it; for it frequently kills all the persons within the sphere of its influence; or scorches them in so dreadful a manner, as to occasion life to linger in excruciating pain, that soon terminates in death. In some cases it has been known to sweep every thing before it, in making its way to the shaft; and to rush forth with such violence and accumulated force as to carry far up a vertical opening, tools, &c. &c. with the whole apparatus of the concern.

A most tremendous instance of this enemy's ravages, which if opposed in time, might be trampled into atoms, and instantly annihilated,

* It is a curious fact, that fire struck out by any silicious substance, either from steel, or iron pyrites, will not enkindle this vapour: in consequence of which, some miners prefer working by sparks, raised by a steel mill, operating on pyritaceous matter; where it would be dangerous to adopt the other kind of light.

annihilated, happened in the year 1675, in a coal work near this village. The following account is given of it in the Philosophical Transactions:

"The damp had been perceived for some time before, resembling fiery blades, darting and crossing each other from both sides of the pit. The usual methods were taken to free the pit from this evil. After a cessation of work for three days, the steward thinking to fetch a compass about from the eye of the pit that came from the day, and to bring wind by a secure way along with him, that, if it burst again, it might be done without the danger of men's lives, went down, and took two men along with him, which served his turn for this purpose. He was no sooner down, but the rest of she workmen that had wrought there, disdaining to be left behind in such a time of danger, hastened down after them; and one of them more indiscreet than the rest, went headlong with his candle over the eye of the damp pit, at which the damp immediately catched, and flew to and fro over all the hollows of the work, with a great wind and a continual fire; and as it went, keeping a mighty great roaring noise on all sides.

"The men, at first appearance of it, had most of them fallen upon their faces, and hid themselves as well as they could, in the loose slack, or small coal, and under the shelter of posts; yet, nevertheless, the damp returning out of the hollows, and drawing toward the eye of the pit, it came up with incredible force: the wind and the fire tore most of their clothes off their backs, and singed what was left, burning their hair, faces and hands; the blast falling so sharp on their skin, as if they had been whipt with cords. Some that had least shelter, were carried fifteen or sixteen yards from their first station, and beaten against the roof of the coal, and sides of the post, and lay afterwards a good while senseless; so that it was long before they could hear or find one another. As it drew up to the day pit, it caught one of the men along with it, that was next to the eye; and up it comes with such a terrible crack, not unlike but more shrill, than a cannon, that was heard fifteen miles off with the wind; and such a pillar of smoke, as darkened all the sky

sky over-head for a good while. The brow of the hill above the pit was eighteen yards high, and on it grew trees of fourteen or fifteen yards long; yet the man's body, and other things from the pit, were seen above the tops of the highest trees at least one hundred yards. On this pit stood a horse-engine of substantial timber, and strong iron work; on which lay a trunk, or barrel, for winding the rope up and down, of above 1000 pounds weight; it was then in motion, one bucket going down, and the other coming up, full of water. This trunk was fastened to that frame with locks and bolts of iron; yet it was thrown up, and carried a good way from the pit, and pieces of it, though bound with iron hoops and strong nails, blown into the woods about: so likewise were the buckets; and the ends of the rope, after the buckets were blown from them, stood awhile upright in the air like pikes, and then came leisurely drilling down. The whole frame of the engine was stirred and moved out of its place; and those men's clothes, caps, and hats that escaped, were afterwards found shattered to pieces, and thrown amongst the woods a great way from the pit."

Another melancholy instance happened recently in the same works. On the 6th of April 1807, there was a dreadful recurrence of the same calamity in Mostyn colliery, by which twenty-eight persons were either instantaneously destroyed, or died in consequence of the effects of the enflamed gas; a warning, it might have been thought, sufficient to arouse the attention of the over-lookers, and rendered the workmen more cautious: but, alas! on the 10th or March, 1809, notwithstanding the accumulation of the fatal damp had been evident for several days, an explosion again took place, and occasioned the death of twenty-two others. Thus, in the short period of two years, by the culpable negligence of some, the rashness and blind belief in predestination of others, fifty industrious colliers have been deprived of their existence, twenty-six women rendered widows, and sixty-six young children fatherless.

The effects of the fiery vapour upon the human body, were precisely similar to those described by Mr. Mostyn: but it did not appear in other respects to have acted with equal violence,

nor

nor was the report of the explosion, though considerable, heard at any distance. It may be remarked, that the pits in which the hydrogen gas accumulates so frequently, are in the immediate vicinity of the sea, and not remote from the "burnt rock," described in the preceding pages. Some of the adjacent strata contain pyrites.

On an elevation called Mostyn mountain, is a singular monument denominated *Maen Achwynfan*, or the stone of lamentation. The form is that of an ancient obelisk in the early ages of Christianity. The height is twelve feet, two feet four inches wide at the base, let into another flat stone, as a plinth, or pedestal, near five feet square, and the thickness of the shaft is about one foot. The sculpture consists of various, and elegant work in alto relievo. The circular head has on one side, the representation of a Grecian cross; and lower down, another like that of St. Andrew's; under which is a figure, in puris naturalibus, with a spear or javelin in his hand, depicted in the act of brandishing it against a foe: the intermediate spaces are filled with divers kinds of fretwork, such as is seen on many very ancient columns in this island. The opposite side is also decorated with numerous engrailed circumgyrations.

With respect to the time, when such monuments were erected, there has been among antiquaries much difference of opinion. Dr. Plot, describing some remaining in Staffordshire similar to this, conceives they were erected by the Danes; because, one not much unlike stands near Bean-castle in Cumberland, inscribed with Runic characters, which is presumed to have been a funeral monument. There are, however, no marks of Scandinavian literature, nor art, on this, nor yet the vestiges of a date. The learned author of the additions to Camden, Gibson, confesses, he was unable to ascertain, either the time of its erection, or to what nation it should be ascribed. Some from the numerous surrounding tumuli, have supposed it a memorial of the dead, who having been slain in battle, were here interred: but this ancient mode of sepulture was of a more early date, than the elegant sculpture on such a description of monuments will admit, as a proof, drawn from synchronism. It is evident from the

the crosses, as emblematic of Christianity, it could not be a pagan relique; and from the design, evidently set up, anterior to the reign of gross superstition: otherwise the sculptor would have interlarded his work, with some allusive representation to legendary story.

The name points out the intended purpose of its erection, or its subsequent use. Near Stafford formerly stood a monument of a similar description, called the *weeping cross*, an appellation analogous to the Maen achwynfan; which were pillars so denominated, because petitioning complaints for pardon of sins, were preferred, and penance performed before such consecrated columns; on which occasions the ceremony usually concluded with 'lamentations and weeping,' as professed signs of real repentance, or sincere contrition.

The township, called *Tre'r Abbot*, was so denominated from having been a country villa, belonging to the presiding governors of Basingwerk monastery. It afterwards became the private property of a family by the name of Davies; and here was born that extraordinary character,

Miles Davies. The bent of his mind, was for poetry: and like most poetical geniuses, he was the companion and votary of imagination; but Davies yielded rather too much to the goddess of song, and became a most eccentric character. The time in which he flourished was the commencement of the eighteenth century, and about the year 1716 he published a work entitled "Athenæ Britannicæ," in three volumes. Another performance, which he considered the one, on which he ought to rest his fame, was a poem on St. David's day, written in Latin: this he whimsically calls, "Martis Calendæ, sive laudes Cambro-Britannicæ." In this poem, if poem it may be termed, eulogy seems to have run wild, or gone astray rather violently.

Roberto atque *Mansel, Buckley, Vaughan*, et
Trevor, et *Hanmer*, cumque *Salesbury*
Stradlinque, Conway, Kemys, Anwill
Morgantus. Thelcolque, Morton.

Bennet

Bennet, beata, oecumenicon nota
Davidis ortu, est *Davisius* nepos
Wynne, atque *Griffith*, atque *Pennant*
Lloydd quoque *Powell*, et *Ellis*, *Humphreys*, &c. &c.

In the adjacent parts are a variety of works which have their operations facilitated by several small streams of water, and are economically conducted, by means of the plentiful supply of coals, obtained from pits in the immediate neighbourhood, and the consequent cheapness of this necessary fuel.

WHITEFORD village is remarkable for several superstitious rites, or as some may term them, devotional customs, or sacred duties. That memento to the living, called the *passing bell*, is regularly sounded on the intimated departure of a soul from its earthly tenement; and frequently a peal is rung after the burial, as though the relatives, like the ancient Scythians, rejoiced at the escape the person had made out of a wicked and vexatious state.

Offerings to the minister at funerals, as is the case of many other parishes in the principality, still continue to be made. *Bell-corn*, is rather a singular custom. It is a perquisite of office demanded by the clerks of this, and some other places.

In the church are several monuments, commemorative of different branches of the Mostyn family, and other persons of distinction: but little can here be gleaned, that will tend to confer honour on genius, fame on sculpture, or elucidate epigraphical science. The following quaint lines on a grave-stone in the church-yard, are equally ludicrous, as they are laconic:

"Vita caduca vale,
Vita perrenis ave!"

On the hill called *Garreg* is a circular tower with an open-worked parapet, which is conjectured, and from the shape with probability, to have been a Roman *pharos*, or light-house, for enabling navigators to conduct their vessels along the difficult channel of the Seteia portus.

DOWNING, the seat of *David Pennant, Esq.* is a good mansion

 in

in the form of a Roman H, with the wings gabled, erected in the year 1627. It is placed in a low sequestered situation; and well sheltered by the surrounding finely wooded grounds. Many and tasteful improvements were made by the late owner, who with skilful management in the arrangement of the gardens, and plantations, produced the effect of much greater extent in appearance, than it actually possessess. Several oaks of great age measure prodigious in the girt; particularly the *fairy oak*, so called from the circumstance of a poor cottager having a peevish child, supposed it could not be of her own quiet breed; but must have been changed by the *tylwyd teg*, or fairy family. For the purpose of the right one being restored, therefore, she exposed the imagined changeling in its cradle for a night, under this tree; and finding the infant quiet in the morning, she took it home perfectly satisfied the desired interchange had taken place, and her own offspring been restored. To this superstitious credulity Spenser beautifully alludes in his Fairie Queen,

> " And her base elfin breed there for thee left,
> Such men do changelings call, so chang'd by fairies theft.

" It has a hall, which I prefer to the rural impropriety of a paltry vestibule; a library thirty feet by eighteen; a parlour capable of containing more guests than I ever wish to see at a time, septem convivium; novem convicium! and a smoaking room most antiquely furnished with ancient carvings, and the horns of all the European beasts of chase, This room is now quite out of use, as to its original purpose. Above stairs is a good drawing room, in times of old, called the dining-room, and a tea-room, the sum of all that are really wanted.—I have Cowley's wish realized, a small house and large garden! The library is filled by a numerous collection of books, principally of history, natural history and classics. My own labors might fill an ordinary book room.—Among my own labours, I value myself on my MS. volumes of THE OUTLINES OF THE GLOBE, in xxii volumes, folio, on which uncommon

uncommon expence has been bestowed, in ornament and illuminations."

In the different rooms are numerous pictures, principally consisting of subjects in natural history, and family portraits. Among the former, the representations of the torrid, temperate, and frigid zones, illustrated by the peculiar beasts, and birds natives of each, with the concomitant scenery, done by *Peter Paillou*, are masterly performances. Among the portraits is one of *Charles the First* by *Vandyck*, who has ridiculously represented the king in a slashed and laced scarlet jacket. Another opposite is that of Charles, great grandson of that unfortunate monarch: a picture, which, from political circumstances, had frequently changed possessors; when at length it came into the hands of Mr. Pennant: who observes, "though the period of Jacobinism was over, yet I remember the time in which I might have been struck out of the commission, (of the peace) for having in my possession, even the *shadow* of disaffection."

The public are indebted to the late literary possessor of this place, for many documents illustrative of ancient costume, and substantial history. One instance, which he gives of an ancestor of the Pennant family is, that 'of WILLIAM PENNANT, second son of Hugh Pennant of Byehton; who prior to his making a rural retreat, had been many years occupied as a goldsmith and jeweller; for the benefit of which business he resided at the Queen's head in Smithfield: and by the insignia attached to the house, in addition to the common sign, and some bequests he made to persons employed at the court of St. James's, there can be no doubt, but he had procured the patronage of royalty. He also remembered his relatives before his death, by various donations, which at this time will probably appear, almost infantile. He left much property to his native parish, and to his relations and friends, besides some small bequests in money. The following items appear in his will.

, "William Pennant also remembered several of his friends by legacies, at this time appearing to us very singular. 'Besides some small legacies in money, he bequeathed the following articles:—'Item, I give and bequeath unto sir William Forteacue, kt.

one chaine of gold and pearle, weighing about 12 ounces and a quarter; one billament of gold and pearle, being 19 pieces; a round salt of silver, with a cover thereto, weighing fifteen ounces, and somewhat more; six white silver spoons; one feather bed, bolster, two pillows, two blankets, one blue rugg, a teastern of satten figured, russet and black, and vallance to the same; five curtains of taffety sarsenet, one char, and a stool with a back of satten russet; ten black, and six stools covered with black wrought velvet; and also a great chest covered with black leather, with an in-lock on it, and all things in it (excepting certain plate therein) hereafter bequeathed. Item, I give and bequeath unto —— Fortescue, the daughter of the said William Fortescue, kt. and god-daughter to my late wife Ellinor, her aunt, one bason and ewer of silver, all gilt, weighing 56 ounces, or thereabouts; one dozen of silver spoons gilt, weighing 22 ounces, or thereabouts; one silver pot hooped, weighing twenty ounces and upwards; with arms on the side thereof; a bell salt without a cover, partly gilt, weighing 6 ounces, or thereabouts. All which particulars are in the said black chest. And I will that the same shall presently after my decease be delivered to the said William Fortescue, kt. for him to keep safely in trust and confidence, to and for the use of ——, untill she happen to be married, or untill she shall attain to the age of 21 years, and then to be delivered unto her; and that if the said —— happen to die before she be married, or attain to the age of 21 years, then I give and bequeath the said legacy to her bequeathed to Roger Fortescue, her brother, to be delivered to him at his age of 21 years, and untill that time to remain in trust in the hands of Sir William Fortescue, his uncle. Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving and kind friend, Mr. Randall Woolley, merchant taylor, one ounce of fine gold to make him a ring. Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving friend Mr. John Barker, living at Mr. Robt. Holland's house, the like quantity of fine gold to make him a ring. Item, I give and bequeath unto my loving friend Mr. Richd. Locksmith, clerk to Mr. Attorney General, one ounce of fine gold to make him a ring. Item, I

give

give and bequeath to my loving cousin Mr. John Lloide, bencher of the Inner Temple, 34 buttons of gold, to my cousin Wm. Lloide, his brother, 5*l.* of money. Item, I give and bequeath to my honorable and late master, the said John Fortescue, knt. one of his Highness' most honorable privy councel, in token of the remembrance of his love and kindness towards me, 20*l.* in money, to buy him a piece of velvet for a gown. Item, I give and bequeath to my loving friend the under-named, for the love and kindness that hath passed between us on this earth, as followeth: that is to say; to Sir Robt. Bannister, knt. clerk companion of his majesty's household, one ounce of fine gold, of 3*l.* to make him a ring. To Thomas Merry, chief clerk of his majesty's kitchen, one ounce of the like gold, to make him a ring and to John Crane, one other of the clerks of the kitchen, the like quantity of gold. Item, to Mr. Lewis Owen, serjeant of the larder, the like quantity of gold. Item, to Lewis Rogers, the prince's servant, half an ounce of like gold to make him a ring. Item, to John Panton, servant to the right honorable the lord chancellor of England, one ounce of fine gold of the like value. Item, to John Price, one of the porters in the spiritual court in London, the like quantity of fine gold. Item, to John Legate, of Hornchurch, in Essex, esq. one ounce of fine gold. Item, I give and bequeath to my loving friend, Walter Meredith, 5*l.* in money, and also a cloak of fine black cloth, with some lace about, and lined through with russet taffety.' This will is dated May 4, 1607; the codicil two years after, and Sir Hugh Myddleton left sole executor.

A very fine family picture, a copy from Vandyck, by a self-taught artist, well grouped in good perspective, represents David Pennant, Margaret his wife, and Piers their eldest son.

David Pennant was sheriff of the county in the year 1643, when it was a custom, of time immemorial, for the persons holding that high and greatly responsible office, to be assisted in defraying the expences attendant on its execution, by the voluntary contributions of the neighbourhood. The following

statement will form a kind of contrast to the pride and splendor displayed by persons holding such situations at the present day.

1642. A note of what presents were sent against the sessions.

David Pennant, sheriff.

My Lady Mostyn, 2 muttons, a gallon of sacke and 2*l.*
Mr. Griffith of Cayrwis, 2 sugar loafs.
Mr. Roger Parry, 1*l.*
Mr. Robert Pennant, 1*l.*
Mr. Conway, of Nant, 1*l.*
Mr. Matthew, a sugar loaf.
Mr. Vaughan, 3 gallons of sacke.
Mr. Ralph Hughes, a mutton, six rabbetts, a dozen pigeons.
Mr. John Jones, a sugar loafe.
Mr. David Jones, a sugar loafe.
Mr. Raphell Davis, a veale.
Mr. Hugh Pennant, of Dooning, a mutton.
Mr. William Mostyn of Bagillt, halfe a veale and a pigg.
Nichlas George, 2 capons.
Edward ap Thomas, a veale, a pigg, a quart of hony.
William Parry Wynn, a mutton.
Margaret Price, of Brinford, a mutton.
Thomas ap Robert ap Hugh, 2 capons and a pigg.
John ab William John, halfe a veale, and a qt. hony.
Edward Ethel, a qr. veale, and a pigg, 6 qt. claret.
John Thomas Evans, a qr. of veale.
Julius Seasar, a qr. veale, and a qr. porke.
Thomas ab Ellis, a mutton.
Pyers Williams, 2 capons and a qt. of hony.
William Ethel, a sugar loafe.
John Price, of Calcote, 2 hoopes of oats.
Robert Lloyd, a sugar loafe.
Thomas Lloyd, of Mertyn, a qr. veale, a qr. lambe.
Petter Hughes, 2 capons.
Thomas Parry, of Mays guin, 2 capons, and a pigg.
John ap Robert Shamber wen, halfe a veale.
Thomas John Cooke, half a mutton.

Barbara

Barbara Parry, half a lambe.
The deputie Sheriff, 2 turkies, and a pottle of sacke.
John Price, of Pentre, a qr. veale, a pigg.
Robert Lloyd, of Taverne y Gennog, halfe a lambe.
John Humfrey, a veale.
Mrs. Kyffin, a qr. veale, a greate cake.
Mr. Roger Holland, 4 hoops of wheat.
Andrew Ellis, a goose, a qr. veale.
Margaret Ach Pyers, 2 dozen cakes.
Thomas ap Thomas, a flitch of bacon, 6qt. claret, a qr. veale.
Ellen Foulkes, a qr. veale.
John ap John, halfe a lambe, a qr. of mutton.
John Conway, a qr. veale, a pigg.
Anne Simon, a qrt of Sacke.
Foulke, the joyner, a pigg.
David, the weaver, a pigg.
Ellin Lorrance, 2 henns.
Thomas John ap Ric. a qr. porke, 4 eggs.
Ales Owen, 2 henns, 2 piggs, 6 chickins, 30 eggs.
Mar. John Robert, 2 hens, a pigg, three chi.
Edward John ap Robert, 2 henns, a qr. porke, a pigg.
John ap Rhytherch, 60 eggs.
Hugh Barker, a qr. of porke.
John ap John ap Robert, 2 capons.
Hugh ap Thomas ap Harry, 2 capons.

Howel of humorous epistolary memory in his work, entitled "Epistolæ Ho-Elianæ," relates a wonderful story of one John Pennant of Bychton, who exhibited a most singular phenomenon in physiology, a serpent in a man's heart. It forms the subject of his forty third letter, and is aptly addressed to that organ of credulity, sir Kenelm Digby, knt.

'It was my fortune,' says the solemn historian, 'to be in a late communication, where a gentleman spoke of a hideous thing that happened in High Holborn, how one John Pennant, a young man of 21, being dissected after his death, there was a kind of serpent, with divers tails, found in the left ventricle of his heart, which you know is the most defended part, being

thrice thicker than the right, and is the cell which holds the purest and most illustrious liquor, the arterial blood and the vital spirits. The serpent was it seems three years ingendring, for so long time, he found himself indisposed in the breast; and it was observed that his eye, in the interim, grew more sharp and fiery, like the eye of a cock, which is next the serpent's eye in redness: so that the symptom of his inward disease might have been told by certain exterior rays and signatures.

God preserve us from public calamities! for serpentine monsters have been often ill favored presages. I remember in the Roman story, to have read how, when snakes or serpents were found near the statues of their gods, at one time, about Jupiter's neck, another time about Minerva's thigh, there followed bloody civil wars after it.'

This portentous story is given most scientifically by Dr. Edward May, in a thin quarto pamphlet of forty pages. The title page will inform the reader of his various other titles, which savor most strongly of quackery.

A
MOST CERTAINE
AND TRUE
RELATION
OF A STRANGE MONSTER
OR SERPENT;
Found in the Left Ventricle of the
Heart of John Pennant, Gentleman of the Age of 21 Years.
By Edward May, Doctor of Philosophy
and Physick, and Professor Elect of them
in the Colledge of the Academy of
Noblemen, called the Museum Minervæ.
Physitian also Extraordinary unto her
Most Sacred Majesty Queene of
GREAT BRITAIN, &c.
LONDON:
Printed by George Miller, MDCXXXIX.

The epistle dedicatory is to the renowned peere of this kingdom, Edward earle of Dorset, the book itself to sir Theodore

odore Maihorne, knight. In that he lays before him the wonderful case. He tells us that he was sent on October 7th, 1637, by lady Herris, wife to sir Francis Herris, knight, to dissect her nephew John Pennant, who had deceased the night before, to know the cause of his death. The doctor brought with him Master Jacob Heydon, surgeon, to assist in the enquiry. Mr. Heydon made incision into the left ventricle of the heart, which was full of blood. On thorough examination, the monster was discovered, the head of which was so like to that of a serpent, that lady Herris shivered to see it. To judge by the prints, all the upper part of it was cylindrical, towards the lower part bifurcated, and each fork divided into five long and slender fibuillae. I leave to the reader the perusal of the rest of Dr. May's most curious disquisition.

THOMAS PENNANT Esq. was a literary character of no mean talents, and of indefatigable industry. It appears from the account of his own life, drawn up by himself, that he was born not at 'Bychton,' but at Downing. "To prevent all disputes about the time and place of my birth, be it known, that I was born on June 14th, 1726, old style, in the room now called the yellow room; that the celebrated Mrs. Clayton, of Shrewsbury ushered me into the world*."

On the death of his father, David Pennant, he became possessed of a small estate, and from the circumstance of a rich mine of lead ore, having been discovered upon it, he was enabled by the means of the emoluments arising from the concern, not only to make considerable improvements on his estate: but also to pursue the objects most agreeable to his natural genius and the tenor of his mind. When he was about twelve years of age, an incidental circumstance directed the bias of his genius to natural history; in which, he afterwards became a great proficient; furnished a most ample store of information, and left materials behind him for others to work up; thus not only enabling them to further superficial science; but shew the mechanism of the orb, on which human beings are doomed for a certain period to exist. John Salusbury esq. the

* Pennant's Hist. of Whiteford &c p.

In the year 1792, he says of himself, though my body may have somewhat abated of its wonted vigour, yet my mind still retains powers, and its longing after improvement, its wish to see new lights through the chinks which time has made.—Happy is the life, allusive to his unfinished work, "Outlines of the Globe," that could beguile its fleeting hours, without injury to any one; and with addition of years, continue to rise in its pursuits. But more interesting and still more exalted subjects must employ my future span*." The span of human life is but very limited in dimension, at its utmost extent, and every reflective mind, well knows, from experience, how much easier it is to project than to execute.

The loss of an amiable, and only daughter in the year 1794, had an effect upon his mind, which he never recovered. This produced morbid effects upon the body, and a pulmonary complaint ended his terrene career, at the latter end of the year 1798. He was so much esteemed for his different writings, that he was admitted member of no less abroad, and at home of *eleven* incorporated literary societies: into several of which he was elected an honorary member.

It would be a difficult task accurately to appreciate the abilities, the energies, and the virtues of this valuable member of society. His talents, if not brilliant, were most usefully applied. He was beneficent to a great degree, when his fortune was compared with that of others, as a magistrate upright and just, without losing sight of the most equitable part of an executive minister of the laws, humanity. He was the friend and patron of learning, and learned men; and how much, by science and industry, he contributed to the literary fund in his publications, will be seen by the list of works contained in the following note †.

DISSERTA

* Literary Life.

† The following is an enumeration of his different publications, with their dates;

British Zoology, folio edition. 1761

second edition, two vols. 8vo. 1768

Diserth is notable on ancient record, as forming a link in the chain of fortified posts, that run through this, and the adjoining county; but of its early history little has transpired. It was known under different names, such as *Din colyn, Castell*

vol. iii. 8vo. 1769
108 additional plates, &c. 8vo. 1776
fourth edition, three vols. 8vo. 1776
vol. IV. containing worms, &c. 1777
Synopsis of Quadrupeds, 8vo. 1771
History of Quadrupeds, being the second edition of the Synopsis two vols. 4to. 1781
third edition, two vols. 4to. 1792
Genera of Birds, 8vo. 1781
Indian Zoology, folio. 1769
second edition 4to. 1778
Arctic Zoology, two vols. 4to. 1784
Supplement to 4to. 1787
second edition, two vols. 4to. 1792
Tour in Scotland, in 1769, 8vo. 1771
second edition, 8vo. 1772
third edition, 4to. 1774
Tour in Scotland in 1772, forming vol. ii. 4to. 1774
vol. iii. 4to. 1775
fifth edition, three vols. 4to. 1790
Tour in Wales, vol. i. 4to. 1778
vol. ii. 4to. 1781
second edition, two vols. 4to. 1784
Journey from Chester to London, 4to. 1782
Account of London, 4to. 1790
second and third editions. 1791
Literary Life, 4to. 1793
History of Whiteford and Holywell, 4to. 1796
Outlines of the globe, vols. i. and ii. 4to. 1798
Miscellanies, only 30 copies, from a private press.
History of the Patagonians, from the same press.

Posthumous Publications.

Outlines of the Globe, vol. iii. and iv. 4to. 1801
Journey from London to Dover, 4to. 1801
Journey from Dover to the Isle of Wight, 4to. 1801

y *Efyilon*,

these events rapidly occurring between the contending parties, Randle Blundeville, earl of Chester, was suddenly, and unexpectedly attacked in this fortress, by a body of Welsh, and with an incompetent force, for long resistance, lay here in the most tantalizing distress, till he was relieved by his lieutenant Roger de Lacy, who with vast promptitude collecting a number of idle people of all descriptions; such as itinerant minstrels, fidlers, tinkers, panders, &c. &c. by dint of numbers, put the besiegers to flight. The earl, grateful for the kind assistance, remunerated his deliverer, by appointing him to the degrading office of, 'Magisterium omnium peccatorum et meretricum totius Cestreshire*.' This honourable situation, and distinguished authority over the motley crew, was afterwards, by a son of Lacy, partially assigned to his steward, Hugh Dutton his heirs, and assigns, by a most curious deed, worded as follows, viz. "Sciant præsentes et futuri, quod ego, Johannes constabularius Cestriæ, dedi et concessi, et hac presenti mea charta confirmavi Hugoni de Dutton, et hæredibus, suis magistratum omnium leccatorum†, et meretricum totius Cestershiræ, sicut liberius illum magistratum teneo de comite. Salvo jure meo, mihi et hæredibus meis." By virtue of this legal instrument, the descendants of Hugh Dutton, in the reign of Henry the seventh, when the rights of Welshmen were allowed, in common with those of others of his majesty's liege subjects, to exist; preferred their claim of an annual payment of *fourpence*‡, from every female of Cyprian celebrity, within the

† Leycester 142, as quoted in Pennant's Tours, where this nobleman is stated to have 'held his earldom from 1182 to 1232.' But Randolph, or *Randle de Meschines*, surnamed Blundaville, was created earl of Chester, and of Richmond, in right of his wife, Constance, to whom he was a third husband, by king John, in the year 1209; and in 1232 the title, for want of issue, the title became extinct*.

* *Leccator*, in the latinity of the middle ages, was a general term, applicable to riotous and debauched persons of all descriptions.

‡ At this period the harmonic art had been so far degraded, that minstrels were considered as vagrants, or vagabonds.

* See "Extinct Peerage," and Beatson's Political Index, Vol. II. p. 15.

the county of Chester; and ordered all the minstrels, exercising their profession within the county, to appear before them, or their stewards, annually on the festival of St. John the Baptist. Neither were they to appear with unfurnished hands, nor an empty purse: each was to bring as a douceur, a lance, four flaggons of wine, and pay fourpence halfpenny, * for a licence, granted to protect him in the exercise of his calling the custom, property. This being annexed to certain estates descended for centuries; and the anniversary, when modern minstrels went in procession to hear divine service in St. John's church, Chester, was kept up so late as the year 1758†.

So important did the conqueror of Wales consider this stronghold, that previous to the accomplishment of his design, he made it the rendezvous of all his forces destined for that purpose. It was the place d' armes and the depot of provisions for the advancing division of his army. An unsuccessful attack was made upon the garrison by Llewelyn, with the forces brought up by his brother David in the year 1281‡ and it soon after became the state prison for the latter prince, previous to his ignominious end at Shrewsbury.

It appears afterwards, that it was surprised, and taken by a detached force under the command of Ryse ap Maelgwyn, and Gryffydd ap Meredith ap Owen; but they were quickly, for want of succours, obliged to abandon the fortress. In consequence of this, to prevent the success of any future attempts of the Welsh, Edward the first adopted every known method to render it impregnable. For this purpose he strengthened the old works, and added new. This monarch frequently made this castle his residence. In the year 1282 he issued orders from this place to the sheriffs of the adjacent counties, to raise,

* Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Vol. II. p. 230.

† At that period the coin denominated a *penny*, was minted silver; and for the sake of increasing the circulating medium, vulgarly called *change*, this was divided, alias cut in two, and each part was then called a *half-penny*.

‡ Blount's Tenures, edit. of Beckwith, 300.

according to a ratio fixed for each, a certain number of *hatchet-men*, to act as pioneers, by cutting down the woods, forming roads &c. &c. in various other ways making passages through the obstructive parts of the country, for his army to advance to the interior; which without these precautions, it could not do either with convenience, or safety.

In 1283 he held a parliament at this place, and hence he afterwards promulgated the edicts for the regulation of his newly acquired territory. And here it was, the peace-making archbishop Peckham, attempted to obtain that by duplicity, which he could not obtain by uprightness and truth; for with the usual spirit of diplomacy, he in the king's name addressed conciliatory memorials to Llewelyn, and his brother the heir apparent to the Cambrian throne, with the view of inducing them to resign the little remaining territory, and shadow of royalty, they still most tenaciously withheld. The three documents contain various illusive items. The title of the first runs thus, 'These are to be said to the Prince before his *councell.*' The second. 'These following are to be said to the Prince in *secret.*' The third. These are to be said to David, brother to Llewelyn *in secret.*' The latter is worthy of being recorded, as exhibiting the domineering spirit of ecclesiastical bigotry at the time.

First, That if for the honor of God (Juxtor debitum crucis assumptæ) he will go to the holie land, he shall be prouided, for according to his degree, so that he doo not returne, vnlesse he be called by the king: and we trust to entreat the king to prouide for his child.

2. And these things we tell ourselues to the Welshmen, that a greate deale greater perill dooth hang ouer them, than we told them by mouth when we were with them: these things which wee write seeme greeuous, but it is a great deale more greeuous to be oppressed with armes, and finallie to be rooted out, bicause euerie daie more and more their danger dooth increase.

3. Item,

3. Item, it is more hard to be alwaies in wawe, in anguish of mind, and danger of bodie, alwaies sought and besieged, and so to die in deadlie sinne, and continuall rancor and malice.

4. Item we feare (whereof we be sorie) valesse you doe agree to peace, we most certainlie will aggravate the sentence Ecclesiasticall against you for your faults: of the which you can not excuse yourselues, whereas yee shall find both grace and mercie, if you will come to peace*."

An act of conscriptive tyranny, that took place at that period, evidently shews, notwithstanding the drains which a continued warfare had made, from the population of this country; yet though diminished, it must still have been at the time very great: for Edward politically raised, to send out on an expedition against the Scots, at one time, not less than *fifteen thousand* men from this part of the island, But unwilling troops are not like volunteers, and the expedient had nearly proved fatal to him; for while he lay in camp near Llinlithgow, the English and Welsh troops quarrelled upon subjects, arising from national prejudices; and after some blood being spilt between the parties, the latter marched off the ground, and left the former to fight their own battles†.

During the civil war, in the time of Charles the first, Rhyddlan castle was occupied by the royalists, but after a short siege, the garrison surrendered to general Mytton, in July 1646, in the month of December following, it was by order of the Parliament, in the government phrase of the day, '*slighted*,' that is dismantled.

The castle was built of the red sand stone, found in the adjacent rocks. The form is nearly approximating to a square, and the walls are flanked by six round towers; three of which remain tolerably intire. The ditch is wide and deep; and on both sides faced with stone. The steep escarpement towards the river was defended by walls, in which were square bas-

 tions;

* Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Appendix, p. 440.

† Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland, Vol. II. p. 257.

tions; one of which is still standing. The walls inclose an area nearly of an octagonal shape, round which range different apartments. In one of these, while the royal party were spending here their Christmas, Eleanor the consort of king Edward, was safely delivered of a daughter. Yet tradition says, it was at a private palace of the king's; and an old house, still the property of the crown, is traditionally supposed, to have been the place of the queen's accouchment. At a small distance from the castle was a monastery of *Black friars*, founded some time prior to the year 1268; for in that year Anian, prior of the house, was preferred to the see of St. Asaph. Though it frequently suffered by the clashing contests for possession of the castle; yet it appears to have subsisted, till the general dissolution of religious houses: but its annual revenues are not mentioned, either by Dugdale, or Speed *.

Rhyddlan was made a free borough by Edward the first, and endowed with numerous privileges and immunities. The charter, which was granted in the twelfth year of his reign, was signed at Flint, the 8th day of September. By virtue of this, the constable of the castle was to be mayor, and two bailiffs, elected by the burgesses, on Michaelmas day, were to appear before him for the administring the customary oaths. The corporation were allowed the power of imprisonment and trial in all cases, not affecting the life, or limbs of any persons. No Jews were permitted to reside within the town or precincts; and the burgesses had, besides, the liberty of a forest and free warren, a gild cum hansa et loth et shoth, sok, sak, et theam, et infangentheft, et lib. per totam terram de Theoloniis, lestagio, muragio, Danegeld, Gaywite, &c. &c."

When in a future period, Tyrany attempted to abridge these privileges, and take from them these immunities, the men of Rhyddlan came forward with the following spirited explanatory remonstrance.

" De Libertatibus Burgensium de Rothelan.

Ex

* Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

Ex cod. M. S. chart. in Bibliothecæ Hengwrtiana.

1. Idem Burgenses clamant quod non sunt amerciandi in Curia Domini Regis pro aliqua transgressione in quam cecide-rint, ultra XII denarios.

2. Idem clamant quod Uxores suæ in eorum absentia defen-dere possunt sectas Domino Regi debitas in Curia prædicta.

3. Idem clamant quod possunt habere molas manuales, & blada sua dominica necessaria pro expensis demorum suarum molend.

4. Idem clamant quod possunt legare Burg. Terras & Tenementa sua, & Redditus, & alia Servita.

5. Idem clamant quod locare possunt Burg. sua quibus-cunque voluerint, & ea eisdem inuadiare, &c. contra tenorem cartarum Domini regis eis de Burgagiis prædictis factarum, in quibus continentur quod iidem Burgenses in eodem Burgo in Burgagiis prædictis ad efforciamendum Villæ & Castri Do-mini Regis in Burgo prædicto corporale facerunt residenc. &c.

6. Idem clamant quod Averia nec aliae districtiones eorum captæ in namium non debent duci extra Villam de Rothelan infra clausum Castri pro aliquibus Amercia infra nec occasi-onibus*."

From this it appears that hand-mills for grinding the corn, requisite for respective families, were in general use at the time this petition was preferred.

If the place were of much consequence in a political point of view, it might be a legal question, respecting its chartered rights, that might puzzle the wisest barristers: for as no con-stable has been appointed since the time of the Protectorate, no mayor could have existed, nor any bailiffs regularly sworn, according to the tenour of the grant. The burgesses, however, contribute towards electing a representative in parliament for Flint; but it has been decided, that to be qualified, such per-sons must be inhabitants of the place, or resident within, what is termed *Middland franchise*. The river Clwyd is navigable

* Leges Wallicæ Appendix, p. 518.

up to this place, and at its mouth where it delivers its waters to the sea, is what is called the *Port*, at the Vorryd; where small vessels lye to take in corn, timber, and other produce of the adjacent parts. The tide flowing sufficiently high to the bridge of two arches, built in 1595, by William Hughes, bishop of St. Asaph, so as to admit boats of about seventy tons burthen, called *flats*, up to the quay.

Morfa Rhyddlan will descend in name, and celebrity to the remotest posterity. This is an extensive marsh, consisting of a red argillaceous soil, on which in the year 795, a dreadful battle was fought, and in the direful conflict, Caradoc, the brave leader of the Britons against the Saxons, under Offa, king of Mercia, nobly fell in defence of his country. The plaintive air, a tune, said to have been composed at the time, and on the occasion, almost depicts the cruelty of the victor; who ordered all the men and children of the opposing party, that became prisoners of war to be massacred. But the composition appears to have been of more recent date.

PENGWERN, the seat of sir *Edward Pryce Lloyd, bart.* is a handsome modern structure, built by the great uncle of the present owner. The late possessor, sir Edward Lloyd, set an excellent example by making extensive plantations, both in his pleasure grounds, and other parts of the demesne, and stimulated others to benefit society, by various agricultural improvements. 'He finished his long and useful life, May 26th 1795.'

BODDLEWYDDAN is a comfortable mansion, which has been considerably enlarged by *sir John Williams*, who was created a baronet in the year 1798, and the grounds have been improved, and laid out after the modern fashion. It was purchased from an ancient family of the name of Humphries, by the celebrated SIR WILLIAM WILLIAMS, speaker of the Commons-house in the last two short parliaments during Charles the second's time; and who subsequently was appointed solicitor general in the following reign, and became at length a Welsh judge. On one of his circuits, he danced with a daughter of Watkyn Kyffyn esq. a man possessed of very large property. He

He obtained the will of the fair damsel to make proposals to her father, for obtaining his consent to give his daughter in marriage to the petitioner. 'And what have you?' said the the crafty old gentleman. William's reply was, 'I have, sir, a *tongue*, and a *gown*.'

"Cedant arma togæ, concedant omnia linguæ;"

He obtained the lady's hand, pocketed a large property, and founded the flourishing houses of Wynnstay, Penbedw, and Bodlewyddan. He appears to have practised the law, with considerable credit, and profit, to the close of his life in the sixty sixth year of his age, July 10, in the year 1703. Like all public characters he was not beyond the view of envy, nor exempt from the mildewing effects of slander. As speaker of the House, he had licenced the votes, which contained matters of scandal, relative to several lords supposed to be implicated in a conspiracy, denominated the *Make tub plot*. For this, an information was filed against him in the King's Bench, where he was found guilty, and fined ten thousand pounds: eight of which he afterwards paid*. "This was driven against him by the duke of York's party, on purpose to cut off the thoughts of another Parliament; since it was not to be supposed, that any house of commons could bear the punishment of their speaker, for obeying their own orders. A cenotaph was erected to his memory in Highgate chapel, and another monument with an elegant Latin inscription in the church of Llansilin Denbighshire†.

KINMAEL HALL, was early in the possession of the Hollands, who, derived their descent from John Holland, earl of Huntingdon, and duke of Exeter. The heir to the honours forfeited them by something, which gave offence to the court,

* See Dangerfield's Narrative, &c.

† A good engraving by W. Bond, done from a painting in the town hall at Chester, of which place he was recorder, accompanies others, by the same artist in Yorke's Royal tribes.

on his demise, was succeeded by Galfrid ap Arthur, commonly called, from the place of his birth, *Geoffry of Monmouth**.

In the wars, which were carried on against the Welsh, by the princes of the Anglo-Norman dynasty, the bishops, who sate at St. Asaph and Bangor, about the year 1247, were both driven from their dioceses; and became so poor, by having their revenues alienated, as to be obliged to accept voluntary contributions for their necessary subsistence†.

Upon the petition of Anian, who succeeded, about the year 1277, Edward the first sent a request to the Pope at Rome, for his holiness's permission, to remove the episcopal see from St. Asaph to Rhyddlan; as a place of safety, where the bishops and the church might, under shelter of its strong castle, be protected from the furious attacks of the Welsh forces; to whose retaliating vengeance both had long been most alarmingly exposed. The monarch at the same time, made an offer of ground, for a new church; and a thousand marks to defray the expences of its erection‡. But by the death of the Pope, or for some other cause, the design was frustrated; for the metropolitan exhorted the bishop to rebuild the cathedral on its former site.

Whether Kentigern erected it into what is called a see, or assumed the name of bishop, is not certain§; but Asaph certainly did, being denominated in ancient writings *episcopus Asaphensis*, and dying in 596, was interred in his own cathedral.

For the names of succeeding prelates, with biographical notices of their characters, the reader is referred to other writers on the subject:‖ it will not, however, be irrelevant here, to remark,

* Collectanea Curiosa, vol. I. p. 262.

For some account of this singular character, as a writer, &c. see Beauties, vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 51.

† Hist. Math. Paris.

‡ Rymer Fœdera, vol. II. p. 45.

§ Mona Antiqua, p. 180.

‖ "Godwin de Presulibus," and Willis's Cathedrals, or his "History of the church and diocese of St. Asaph."

remark, that one bishop of St. Asaph, Hughes, a descendant from the tribe of *Marchudd*, was a great benefactor both to the place and see. He presided from 1573 till his death, which happened in 1600: and by his will, bequeathed lands, and other revenues, for founding a free grammar school, for the instruction of indigent youth. He procured a faculty from the archbishop of Canterbury, to hold that and other benefices, to the value of fifty pounds per annum in commendam. The archdeaconry has since that time been annexed to the bishoprick. 'Bishop Hughes held, in consequence of the faculty above mentioned, sixteen livings, seven with cures, and nine sinecures at the same time; that is to say, he had Llysfaen in 1573, Castel Caer Enion in 1574, Cwmm in 1574, Gresford in 1577, Llandrinio in 1577, Bettws yn Rhôs in 1577, Meifod in 1578, Llandrillo in Edeyrnion in 1582, Llanycil in 1582, Abergele in 1582, Llandrillo yn Rôs in 1583, Llangwm in 1585, Whitford in 1587, Mallwyd in 1587, Llanfawr in 1588, and Llanrwst in 1592. The amount of these livings at this time would be 4000*l* per annum.*

His successor was the learned William Morgan, an eminent linguist and divine, who was made bishop of Llandaff in the year 1595; and in 1601 translated to St. Asaph, where he lived but a short period to enjoy his preferment, dying in 1604. He was the principal actor in the translation of the Welsh bible, the edition printed in 1588; and also had some hand in the English version, commonly called 'queen Elizabeth's Bible.'

Dr. Isaac Barrow, became a fellow of the college in which he received his education, Peterhouse in Cambridge. From this, by the predominancy of the presbyterian interest, he was ejected; and during the rebellion suffered continual persecution. At the restoration, he was made bishop of Sodor, and Man, to which diocese he was a great benefactor; and on his translation to St. Asaph, he carried with him the same munificent spirit. First, he repaired the cathedral, then founded an almshouse

* Strype's Annals.

almshouse for eight poor widows, and performed numerous other works of charity; one of which will ever redound credit on his name, the educating his nephew Dr. *Isaac Barrow*, the greatest mathematician, and ablest divine of the age in which he lived; and whose celebrity, as the tutor of sir Isaac Newton will ever remain; and whose works, while solid reasoning, and sterling eloquence are esteemed, will ever be admired and read.

Dr. William Beveridge held this see for some time in the beginning of the seventeenth century, who from his great piety was usually stiled the *apostolic* Beveridge; and by his eloquent and animated method of preaching, received the distinguished denomination of 'the restorer and reviver of primitive piety.' At an early age he furnished a display of his knowledge in oriental literature; in his treatise on the excellence of the Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Samaritan, and Arabic languages, to which was annexed a Syriac grammar:' and his "Private Thoughts," will not fail to be read, so long as a spark of real devotion remains in the land. He was preferred to this bishopric in 1704, and dying in 1707, was interred in the cathedral of St. Paul's*.

The present prelate is Dr. *William Cleaver*, principal of Brazen-nose College, Oxford, translated from the see of Bangor, to succeed Dr. Samuel Horsley, who died in 1806.

The diocese of St. Asaph contains the whole of Flintshire, with the exception of the following parishes, viz. Hanmer, Hawarden, Bangor, Orton-Madoc, and Wortenbury, which are annexed to the see of Chester; it includes the whole of the county of Denbigh, exclusive of the deanry of Dyffryn Clwyd, belonging to Bangor; the chapelries of Holt and Iscoed, comprehended in the bishopric of Chester; and Penley, in that of Litchfield and Coventry; about half the county of Merioneth; viz, the hundreds of Mowddy, Penllyn and Edeirnion; three parishes

* For an account of this excellent man, see his Life, prefixed to his works, or a well drawn up memoir, in the Biographica Britannica, vol. II.

parishes in Caernarvonshire, thirty-seven in Montgomeryshire; with eleven churches and chapels in the county of Salop; comprising in the whole one hundred and thirty one churches, and chapels; all of which, except seven, are in the gift of the bishop, as is also the very valuable deanry.

The archdeaconry is held in commendam by the bishop, whose revenues, as charged in the king's books, amount to 187*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; but the present estimated value is from three to four thousand pounds per annum: to which account may be added a most extensive patronage, as to ecclesiastical preferment.

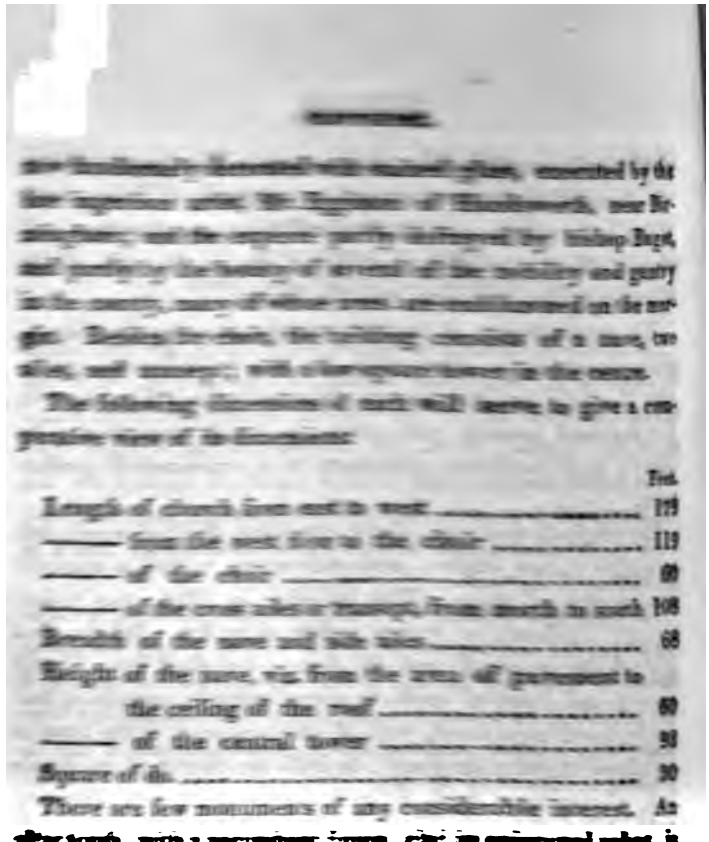
The original structure of the *church* was built of wood; but soon after a new edifice, more convenient, as well as durable, was erected of stone. This building, in 1282, was either through accident, or design, consumed by fire. But the loss was quickly repaired, and the diocese benefited by a liberal present, and grant of lands, to several parishes, containing four hundred and nine acres, each of which appears at the time to be valued at only *six-pence**. In 1402 the church of St. Asaph had to encounter fresh difficulties, and suffer new disasters. The cathedral, as far as it could be destroyed by fire, the annexed canon's houses, together with the episcopal palace, were consumed; after which these lay in a dilapidated state, for nearly eighty years: when they were rebuilt by the bounty of bishop Redman, aided by the voluntary contributions. This work of the worthy prelate is the present structure except the choir, which has been by the liberality of the dean and chapter, out of a fund vested in their hands, as trustees, restored, though not to its pristine state. The church, a neat plain structure, has now to boast of its eastern end being lighted by a large window in the pointed style, having its tracery copied from a skeleton one, still remaining at the ruins of Tintern abbey, in the county of Monmouth. This is now

* From a manuscript account in the Sebright Collection, as quoted in the Pennant's Tours, vol. II. p. 133.

[illegible]

[illegible] by the [illegible] of [illegible], near [illegible]; and the [illegible] by bishop [illegible], and partly by the [illegible] of several of the nobility and gentry in the county, many of whose arms are [illegible] on the margin. Besides the choir, the building consists of a nave, two ailes, and [illegible], with a low square tower in the centre.

The following dimensions of each will serve to give a comparative view of its dimensions:



	Feet.
Length of church from east to west	179
——— from the west door to the choir	119
——— of the choir	60
——— of the cross ailes or transept, from north to south	108
Breadth of the nave and side ailes	68
Height of the nave, viz. from the area of pavement to the ceiling of the roof	60
——— of the central tower	98
Square of do.	30

There are few monuments of any considerable interest. An altar tomb, with a recumbent figure, clad in episcopal robes, is said to be commemorative of the munificent prelate, Dapyto ap Owen, who died in the year 1512. In the church-yard, near to the west door, is a plain tomb, erected over the remains of Bishop Isaac Barrow, already mentioned, who departed this life in the year 1680.

The inscription has given offence both to protestants and papists: to the latter, as disclaiming the doctrine of human merit; and to the former, as encouraging propitiatory prayers for departed souls.

Exuviæ Isaaci Asophensis Episcopi
In manum Domini depositæ
In spem letæ resurrectionis
Per sola Christi merita.
Obiit dictus reverendus pater festi d. Johannis Baptistæ,
An. Dom. 1680. Ætatis 67.

Et translationis suæ undecimo
O vos transeuntes in domum Domini
In domum orationis
Orate pro conservo vestro,
Ut inveniat misericordiam in die Domini.

The members, which compose the chapter, are the dean, the archdeacon, who is the bishop, six prebendaries, and seven canons. Besides which, there belong to the church, four vicars choral, four singing men, four choristers, and an organist.

The parish church, that serves as a place of worship for the inhabitants of the city, and adjacent country; the cathedral, unlike most others, not being used for that purpose, stands at the bottom of the hill.

The episcopal palace was a long time far from being a building proper for the habitation of a diocesan; but by the munificence of the late bishop, Lewis Bagot, a greater part of it was rebuilt upon a larger scale; and numerous additions were made, which have rendered it a residence adapted to the increasing opulence of the see.

The city itself contains nothing of a public nature, to induce a traveller to make any long stay. The buildings erected of brick, are in general low and small, forming one long street; and by the returns made to Parliament, it contains 272 houses, with a population amounting to 1513.

The vicinity of St. Asaph will compensate for the barrenness of the city. In serene weather, about two miles distant, on the Holywell road, from the side of a hill, a fine portion of the vale of Clwyd with its surrounding scenery, may be seen to great advantage. On the south, while the eye stretches its ken over fertility and beauty, Denbigh, with the shattered fragments of its castle, crowning the summit of an isolated hill, grandly and pre-eminently rises into view. On the north, with less assuming aspect, the fallen remains of Rhuddland, press their melancholy features on the sight. The intervening space is diversified by luxuriant fields, rich meadows, groves, woods, water

water, enlivened by numerous herds, flocks, and cottages in every direction, and the whole surrounded by perpendicular rocks, and dark receding mountains in the back ground; or the still grander boundary the ocean: and though not, from the extent, a scenery adapted for the pencil, cannot fail to afford the highest gratification to the real votary of nature,

"Who owns her power in every charm supreme."

"I admire,
None more admires—the painters' magic skill
Who shews me that which I shall never see,
Conveys a distant country into mine,
And throws Italian light on English walls:
But imitative strokes can do no more
Than please the eye—sweet nature every sense.
The air salubrious of her lofty hills,
The cheering fragrance of her dewy vales,
And music of her woods.—No works of man,
May rival these, they all bespeak a pow'r
Peculiar, and exclusively herown."

The road from St. Asaph towards Denbigh, along the common, denominated the *Row*, is peculiarly beautiful. The small valley below is watered by the boisterous stream of the Elwy, which, at times, extremely turbulent, runs beneath finely wooded banks; and at the extremity of it is *pont yr allt gôch*, a handsome bridge, consisting of one arch eighty feet in the span: beyond the direction of the river, as it is found in Denbighshire, the country is exceedingly various, and accompanied by most diversified and romantic scenery.

The isolated part belonging to the county of Flint, denominated *Maeler Saesneg*,* was, at the survey contained in Domesday book, included in an hundred called *Dudestan*; but a new regulation taking place, about the reign of Edward the third, respecting

* *Saesneg*, or English, was a distinctive epithet, it acquired from having been the property, by a marriage settlement, or jointure of *Emma*, an English lady, the relict of *Gryffith ap Madoc*.

respecting the parcels of countries, this portion reverted to the division of Powys. And though by the *Statute Walliæ*, enacted in the reign of Edward the first,* this district was declared to constitute part of Flintshire; yet it was long subsequent, in the reign of Henry the eighth, that several parts were added to continue the chain to Hope, the last parish on the northern side of the hundred.

A custom late retained in this district, serves as a clue to the tone and tenor of the times; and brings conviction from demonstration, that laws, mandates, grants, &c. are a mirror from which is reflected the general character of society. This was the *Amobr*, a term compounded of *Am*, because, or account of, and *gobr*, price, or reward; in a contracted form, otherwise expressed *gober-merch*, the latter term meaning any female: originally perhaps a daughter. This in the records of Caernarvon is denominated *Amobragium*, and is represented as the fine exacted by the manorial lord, from any one violating the chastity of a female, *serva*, or *villein*, or for obtaining her hand alone in marriage. It is there mentioned under the term "*vectigal*," by the phrases of *merces fœminarum*, *pracium virginitatis*, and *precium pro delicto scortandi*. Dr. Davies attempts to account for the custom, in the following way. This mulct, due to the proprietor of the soil, with the tenantry annexed, according to the usages of the ancient Britons, descended from the exercised tyrannical power, attached to feudal lords, prior to the introduction of Christianity; originating out of the right, or rather claim, of selling the virginity of their female clients to whomsoever they pleased. But in accounting for the origin, the author makes use of a supposition, that painfully affects the mind, because it furnishes such a picture of human nature, as appals by the darkness of its colouring. He supposes not only the capability, but the practice of parents prostituting their children. "Hoc precium virginitatis patri debitum fuisse existimo, si vivus esset mortuo patri domino solvendum. Hinc forte virgo di-

* Leges Wallicæ. Appendix, 592.

citur, Diffaith brenhin, desertum regis."* Perhaps not one of the least and beneficial duties of a topographer, is that of detecting historical inaccuracies, correcting errors, arising from implicit confidence, or an indolent mode of quotation; and thus preventing, to a certain extent, the propagation of falsehood.

From this feudal usage, some writers have first imagined, and then deduced, the savage idea, 'ut domini in suis territoriis sponsarum omnium virginitatum prælibarent.' And Hector Boethius † asserts, that this custom, which outrages barbarity, was authorized by law in the time of Evenus the third, who succeeded his father Ederus in the throne of Scotland, twelve years antecedent to the advent of Christ; and by an enactment of Malcolm in the year 1080, under the influence of his queen the custom was abolished, or rendered redeemable, by a fixed pecuniary commutation, *half a mark*, whence the term 'marcheta mulierum.' But from better authority it appears, that no such abominable custom ever existed in Scotland, nor probably in any other place. The term meant, first, the fine paid by a sokeman, or villein, when his daughter unfortunately was seduced: secondly, an acknowledgment for such a person to have permission, for bestowing his daughter in marriage to a stranger, or a fine, as a compensation for so doing, without such leave obtained.‡ Because at a certain period of our history, servile tenants could neither give their sons education, nor dispose of their daughters in marriage, without an express licence from their superior lord.§

This Amobyr certainly was an ancient British custom, answerable to the *lyre-wyte*, of the Saxons, and the *marcheta mulierum* of the Normans. But the Welsh code of laws, so far from encouraging, either adultery, or fornication, endeavoured

to

* See his Dictionarium Duplex under the word *Amobr*.

† Historia, Lib. III.

‡ Dalrymple's Annals of Scotland.

§ Kennet's Glossary.

to check, by severe fines, every indecorous liberty with the fair sex; and the amobyr was legislatively intended to prevent the mischievous effects of libidinous propensity.* It is strange a custom, opprobrious to all human feeling, should have continued so long. Richard Puleston, in the reign of Edward the second, held certain lands in this district, by a tenure, consisting of certain services, including per *amubrogium*.

Under this commutative restriction, Gilbert de Maisnil paid ten marks, in silver, to Henry the third, for obtaining the king's leave to take a wife; and *Cecily*, widow of *Hugh Peyure*, a large douceur, for licence to marry whom she pleased.

In the best legal authority extant, † this usage is defined to be, "a custom in the honour of Clun, an adjacent district belonging to the earls of Arundel; which custom Henry earl of Arundel only released to his tenantry, so late as the year 1550."

Several good family houses ornament this part of the county, viz. *Emral Hall*, *Isoced*, *Willington Hall*, &c. and *Broughton Hall*, in which are still preserved some paintings by celebrated masters; but the most distinguished mansion is HANMER HALL, the seat of *sir Thomas Hanmer, bart.* a handsome modern brick structure, which has received considerable additions and improvements by the present baronet. The grounds, naturally fine, from their consisting of eminences and slopes, embellished with woods and plantations, and situated on the margin of a small lake, covering about fifty acres; have acquired an increase of beauty under the hands of taste.

HANMERE village is generally admired for its charming situation, and its handsome church, a good embattled structure, erected in the time of Henry the seventh. The roof, or rather

* Leges Wallicæ, Lib. II. c. 1. where numerous provisions are made, respecting the fair sex, that are unlike any thing, contained in the English juridical code; and which, while they bespeak a strong sense of the importance of paying regard to decorum, participate of a chivalrous spirit of legislation.

† Tomlins's "Law Dictionary."

ceiling, is formed of wood; the parts over the Fenn's-chapel, and north aile consist of Mosaic work most elegantly carved.

A mural marble tablet with a female figure in a suppliant posture, leaning on a sarcophagus, executed in alto-relievo, commemorates the relict of WILLIAM HANMER, esq. The inscription dates, she died Oct. 2. 1777. æt. 77; and that this monument was erected by Pen Curzon esq. and his sisters, as a token of respect for their grandmother. Two mural monuments in the Hanmer chapel are sacred to the memory of two public characters belonging to the family. The one erected for sir THOMAS HANMER, BART. knight of the shire for the county of Flint, who died after an active and useful life in 1678, aged 66. The other commemorates SIR THOMAS HANMER, of political and literary fame. He represented the county also in successive sessions of Parliament, during the reign of queen Anne, where he greatly distinguished himself by the eloquence of his speeches. Irresistibly argumentative in his mode of reasoning, and decisive in his tone, he seldom failed to make a strong impression on the House; but the force of his logic gave a stiffness to his manner, which was construed by the opposite party into acerbity of mind. This characteristic did not escape the notice of Pope.

"Not all were flowers when pompous Hanmer spoke."

Such, however, was the high sense entertained by the majority of Parliament, that they chose him their speaker, and for a considerable time he filled the high situation with becoming dignity, and acknowledged moderation; and, considering the strength of parties at the time, the chair perhaps was never more impartially filled.

The latter part of his life sir Thomas appears to have retired from the political world, and devoted his leisure to literary pursuits. The effect of this was, an emended and most magnificent edition of Shakespeare, with copious notes in six quarto volumes.

He died May 7, 1746, but left no family, for it has been humourously observed, 'he had married an old woman for love, and a young one for money; and was not very fortunate in either of them.' His epitaph, composed by Dr. Friend, of Westminster school, was written in the life-time of sir Thomas; which being found in a copy of his own edition of Shakespeare, after his demise, it was generally inferred, that it had received the baronet's approbation; and consequently was inscribed on the tomb erected to his memory.*

Sir Thomas Hanmer's Epitaph.

Epitaphium in Thomam Hanmer epitaph.
Honorabilis admodum Thomæ Hanmer, baronettum.
Wilhelmi Hanmer armigeri, è Peregrina Henrici North
De Mildenhall in Com. Suffolciæ Baronetti Sorore & Hærede,
Filius,
Johannis Hanmer de Hanmer Baronetti
Hæres Patruelis,
Antiquo Gentis suæ et titulo et patrimonio successit.
Duas Uxores sortitus est;
Alteram Isabellam, honore a patre derivato, de
Arlington Comitissam,
Deinde celsissimi principis ducis de Grafton viduam dotatum
Alteram Elizabetham Thomæ Folks de Barton in
Com. Suff. Armigeri
Filiam et Hæredem.
Inter humanitatis studia feliciter enutritus,
Omnes liberalium artium disciplinas avide arripuit
Quas morum suavitate haud leviter ornavit.
Postquam excessit ex ephebis,
Continuo inter populares suos fama eminens,
Et Comitatus sui legatus ad Parliamentum missus,
Ad arduæ regni negotia per Annos prope triginta
Se accinxit;

Cumq.

* An expressive engraving half length figure, by W. Bond, in Yorke's Royal Tribes, was taken from a fine full length portrait, painted by sir Godfrey Kneller, still preserved at Bettisfield, an old mansion in the parish of Bettisfield, belonging to the family.

Cumq. apud illos amplissimorum virorum ordines
Soleret nihil temere effutire,
Sed probe perpensa diserte expromere
Orator gravis et pressus,
Non minus integritatis quam eloquentiæ laude
Commendatus,
Equm omnium utcunq; inter se aliisque dissidentium
Animos atque animos attraxit:
Annoque demum MDCCXIII, regnante Anna,
Felicissimæ florentissimæque memoriæ Regina,
Ad prolocutoris Cathedram
Communi senatus universi voce designatus est;
Quod munus,
Cum nullo tempore non difficile,
Tum illo certe negotiis
Et variis et lubricis et implicatis difficillimum
Cum dignitate sustinuit.
Honores alios, et omnia, quæ sibi in lucrum cederent, munera
Sedulo detrectavit,
Ut rei totus inserviret publicæ
Justi, sancti, tenax,
Et side in patriam incorrupta notus
Ubi omnibus, quæ virum, civemque bonum decent, officiis satisfecit,
Paulatim se a publicis Consiliis in otium recipiens
Inter literarum amœnitates,
Inter ante actæ vitæ haud insuaves recordationes
Inter amicorum convictus et amplexus,
Honorifice consenuit,
Et bonis omnibus, quibus charissimus vixit,
Desideratissimus obiit.

Sir Thomas Hanmer's Epitaph paraphrased.

Thou, who survey'st these walls with curious eye,
Pause on this tomb—where Hanmer's ashes lie.
His varied worth, thro' varied life attend,
And learn his virtues, while thou mourn'st his end:
His force of genius burn'd in early youth,
With thirst of knowledge, and with love of truth.
His learning join'd with each endearing art
Charm'd every ear, and gain'd on every heart;

ready unsheathed, and the unoffending monks were doomed to feel its exterminating effects. While in the act of prayer for their fellow countrymen and brother Christians, the Britons, and imploring success on their arms against Saxon Pagan infidels, who had come with an hostile force against them; twelve hundred, or upwards, fell victims to their patriotism and piety. That such a massacre did take place, all authors are agreed; though their dates, as to the disastrous event, do not perfectly synchronize.

"The Bernician conqueror, Ethelfrith renewed his war with the Cymry. He reached Chester, through a course of victory. A part of the forces of the Welsh assembled under Brochmail king of Powys; he perceived the monks of Bangor, twelve hundred in number, praying for the success of their countrymen; he chose to confound them with the soldiers armed to oppose him; he destroyed them; and appalled by their fate, the courage of the troops of Brochmail wavered and fled. Ethelfrith obtained a decisive conquest. Ancient Bangor itself soon fell into his hands and was demolished; the noble monastery was levelled to the earth; its most valuable library, the collection of ages, the repository of the most precious monuments of the ancient Britons was consumed, half-ruined walls and gates, and rubbish, were all that remained of the magnificent edifice."*

The bards have invoked the attention of the muse to this dire event, and minstrels strung their harps to melancholy. Taliesin, who was patronised by the unfortunate prince of Powys, wrote a most pathetic poem on the subject; and commemorating the struggle, says,

"I saw the oppression of the tumult; the wrath and tribulation,
The blades gleaming on the bright helmets;
The battle against the lord of Fame in the dales of Hafren,
Against Brochmail of Powys, who loved my muse."

Various

* Turner's Hist of the Anglo Saxons, Vol. I. p. 134.

almost unparalleled prospect, from a bank in the vicinity. On one side an extensive flat, consisting of rich meadows, varied, enlivened by the windings of the Dee; and bounded in front with fertile well-wooded slopes; while the naked, rusty-coloured mountains, soar above in the distance; and close the diversified scene. On the other a grand contrast is presented to the eye, by the two fertile expanses, the vale royal of Cheshire, and the plain of Salop.

The church is a handsome structure, and the churchyard is, on account of several fine aged yew trees, remarkable for their incomparable size, and beauty of growth, is enumerated among the wonders of Wales. Though the place is a curacy attached to the parish of Bangor, yet it is one of the contributory boroughs, which send a member to parliament for that of Flint.

GWERNHAILED, the seat of a friend to literature, *Philip Lloyd Fletcher, esq.* must not pass unnoticed; the house, a good mansion, stands on the side of a lofty brow, that here skirts the country. Few places command so many fine views, and few have been more judiciously improved. Beneath, runs the Dee on the opposite side of which, are most luxuriant meads; and, in the distance, a motley mass of hills, among which those of Caergwrle, and Rhuabon, the most conspicuous, close the scene.

BANGOR ISCOED * has by some antiquaries been supposed the Roman station, mentioned under the names of *Bonium* and *Bovium* in the Itinerary of Antoninus; but no vestiges have ever been discovered to support such a conjecture, except a few coins; which unaided by other corroborative evidence, amount

* The epithet *iscoed*, or under the wood, allusive to its low and sylvan situation was added to distinguish it from Bangor in Caernarvonshire, with which it was confounded by William of Malmsbury: whereas, as Burton judiciously remarks, the latter was like a colony, formed from the mother country and drawn out of the former: it being peopled with emigrant monks from this monastery.

amount to nothing in the scale of proof. Although in Richards' Iter the station certainly is denominated *Banchorium*.

Camden, who places this village in Cheshire,* appears to have led the way, and then followed in the same beaten tract, Gale, Stukely, and others: but Horseley, with great discrimination, attempts to affix the site near Stretton in Cheshire.

This place, however, obtained early notice, and subsequent celebrity on the page of history, by having been the site of a very early Christian seminary, for instructing religious novices, founded, according to several old writers, by Lucius, the son of Coel,† first Christian king of Britain, anterior to A. D. 180. This college for the dissemination of the Christian faith, through the island, is said to have been converted into a monastery about the year 530, by *Cynwyl*, or *Congelus*, who constituted himself the first abbot. *Gildas Badonicus* is mentioned by Leland, as a member of this religious society; and in this retirement he is supposed to have translated into Latin the code of laws drawn up by Molmutius; and retiring hence to Armorica

* Britannia, Vol. I. p. 666.

† This Coel was the son of Cyllin, and celebrated for introducing among the Britons, 'the grinding mill with wheels,' they having prior to that period used hand-mills for grinding their corn. From which circumstance he was ranked with Morddal, who taught the art of building with stone and mortar; and Corvinwr, the introducer of ships with sail and rudder among the Cymry, to form a triad under the appellation of the three benevolent artisans of the isle of Britain.* This method of reducing corn to flour, Coel probably learned while at Rome, while he and his father resided there. The whole family having been taken as hostages on a certain occasion for the great Cambrian leader, prince Caradoc. In a work written by Geoffry of Monmouth, Coel is said to be the son of *Marius*, and prior to his assuming the reins of the British government, he had been nurtured and educated at Rome, adopted the manners of the Romans, and contracted with that people a strong and close friendship. "Hic ab infantia Romæ nutritus fuerat, moresque Romanorum edoctus in maximum ipsorum inciderat."†

* Cambrian Biography.

† Lelandi Collectanea, vol. III. p. 24.

ing of emblematical figures and family arms have at divers times been discovered.

Whoever visits Bangor with a view to contemplate the ruins of its far celebrated monastery, will be disappointed, as not the smallest vestige of the once stupendous building can now be traced. Nor has the village any other object, worthy of notice, than its *bridge*, a beautifully light and elegant strucure, of considerable antiquity, consisting of five arches: and some pedagogue, emulous of fame, has by the following inscription commemorated the time of its reparation.

MVND 5607.....DENB CC CONCIT.
REPARAT. AN. CHRIST. 1658. SVMP. E COMIT. LIB. M. A.
HEGYR. 1636. FLINT. C.

MONT.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

BY the Welsh is called *Sir Tre Faldwyn*, or the shire of Baldwin, after the name of a lieutenant of the Marches, who swore fealty, and did homage, to William the conqueror for this part of Cambria; which he promised to obtain by force of arms: and having partially accomplished his design, the usurper proceeded to subjugate, a further part of the country for which purpose he erected fortifications and built a town; but the denomination was afterwards changed to that of Montgomery, derived from Roger de Montgomery, the founder of the castle: this gave name to the shire, when it was formed into a distinct county in the time of Henry the eighth. The district comprehending the present county of Montgomery anciently among the Britons, was included in the territory, occupied by the Ordovices; and on the prevalence of the imperial arms over the aboriginal inhabitants, was, with the other parts of the island, lying west of the Severn, comprised in the province of Britannia Secunda.

Numerous vestiges mark out the track of the *Roman* progress, and several settlements evince, that the invaders made some considerable stay. From *Rutupium*, supposed, by Horsley, to be situated near Wem, but with greater plausibility, by Gale and Stukeley, at Rowton, in Shropshire, a military road entered this county, and proceeded to the station *Mediolanum*; the site of which was most probably, where it has been fixed by several able antiquaries, in the vicinity of Meifod or Meivod; a village that in subsequent periods obtained considerable importence, and figured strongly on the pages of history. The second iter of Antoninus begins with this station,

and ends at *Virioconium*, Wroxeter; but the second of Richard commences at Segontium, Caernarvon, extends to *Heriri Monte* near Bala; and passing through Mediolanum, and Rutunium terminates also at Virioconium.

It is however evident, another road must have branched off at Mediolanum, and proceeded in a south-westerly direction; for at the utmost limit of the county on that bearing, where it ends in a sharp angle, is the town of Machynleth, near which it is supposed, stood the station *Maglona;* a place, although unnoticed either by Antoninus, or Richard, is said, in the time of the emperor Honorius, to have been a military depot, where the præfect of the *Solensians*, under the command of the Dux Britanniæ lay in garrison, with a formidable force, to overawe, and keep in subjection, the restive inhabitants of this mountainous tract*. What tends to corroborate this statement is, that various Roman antiquities, such as coins, rings, metallic plates, &c. have been found, and about two miles distant, near Penallt in the adjoining county, a place retains the appellation of *Cefn Caer*, or the back part of the city. After the arrival of the *Saxons* this portion of Cambria became a frequent theatre of most sanguinary scenes, and perpetual conflicts took place between the Britons, and their barbarous invaders. *Brochwel Yscithroc* prince of Powys, in a pitched and desperate battle, about the latter end of the sixth century, was entirely defeated by the Saxons in the vicinity of Chester. Subsequent to this event the borders formed one continual scene of rapine and plunder; the Mercians and Powysians alternately making the most terrible inroads into each others dominions; till the time of king Offa. Enraged at the depredatory incursions of these mountaineers, who removed the corn, drove off the cattle, and after destroying what they could not take away, occasionally betook themselves to their native fastnesses among the hills; he having entered into a league with several princes of the Heptarchy, and assembled the allied troops, passed the Severn

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 770.

Severn with a most formidable force, expelled the Britons from the champagne country, pursued them to the mountains; and then caused the dike to be thrown up, which still retains the monarch's name, whose course has already been described: reducing the kingdom of Powys within the limits of that celebrated boundary. The sovereigns of Powys-land were on that occasion constrained, to quit their ancient residence at Pengwern, or Shrewsbury, and remove to the interior, fixing their residence at Mathraval, in the beautiful vale of Meivod; from which time the region was indifferently called the kingdom of Powys, or Mathraval. The territory, by this violent proceeding on the part of the Saxons, was greatly curtailed. The transsabrine portions of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, submitted to the yoke of the invaders; while the fine fertile plains of Salop became a confirmed and integral part of the Mercian dominions.

The Danes, after their arrival, besides ravaging the coast, made various incursions into Wales; and during their visits to the Mercian state, did not forget to extend their marauding influence, as far as Powysland. It appears to have been on one of these occasions, that they had to lament the rashness of their conduct; and atone, in some degree for the folly of their inconsiderate military movements. Near Pool, at the village of Buttington, the Butdigingtune of the Saxons, they were checked in their excursive career. Hearing an English army was fast approaching with hostile intentions, and a design to execute a plan of offensive operations, they took their intrenched station near this place; where so closely were they blocked up by the forces under the command of the skilful generals, dispatched by king Alfred, that the pagans were so hardly pressed, as to be under the necessity of eating their horses, for want of other means of subsistence. This resource failing, at length grown desperate by despair, and actuated by famine, in attempting to cut their way through the Saxon army, they were repulsed with great slaughter: and so completely

was the discomfiture, very few escaped to relate the disastrous affair to their chagrined countrymen.*

The kingdom of Powys and the fine territory it embraced became early objects to the avaricious views of those hungry lords, who attended the fate of the Norman conqueror. Their partitioning attention was instantly paid to this part of Wales; and, from obvious circumstances, it sooner than any other fell a prey to their insatiable rapacity. These were, the trifold division of Cambria made by Roderic the great, among his three sons; the destructive law, of Gavel-kind; and the disunion of the two divisions of the country into *Powys-Fadoc*, and *Powys Gwenwynwyn*. And here it will not be amiss, once for all, to give a particular account of the principality, afterwards the lordships of Powys, how it came to be divided into many shires and portions; and by that means became so irrecoverably broken and weakened that it was made subject to the Normans before the rest of Wales. For Powys before king Offa's time, reached eastwards to the rivers of Severn and Dee, in a right line from the end of Broxon hills to Salop, and comprehended all the country between the Wye and Severn, which was anciently the Estate of Brochwal Yscithroc, of whom mention is made before. But after the making of Offa's dyke, Powis was contracted into a narrower compass, the plain country towards Salop being inhabited by Saxons and Normans, so that the length of it reached north-east from Pulford-bridge to Lhangiric parish on the confines of Cardiganshire, to the south-west, and the breadth from the farthest part of Cyfeilioc westward, to Elsemere on the east side. This principality, Roderic the great gave to his youngest son Merfyn, in whose posterity it remained entire, till the death of Blethyn ap Confyn, who though he had divided it betwixt his sons Meredith and Cadwgan; yet it came again whole and entire to the possession of Meredith ap Blethyn. But he again broke the union, and left it between his two sons Madawc and Gruffydh; the first of which was married to Susanna the daughter of Gruffydh ap

* Saxon Chronicle, 94, 95.

ap Conan, prince of North Wales, and had with her that part, afterward called by his name, Powys Fadoc. After his death, this lordship was divided also betwixt his sons Gruffydh Maelor, Owen ap Madawc, and Owen Brogynton, which last, though basely born, had however, for his incomparable valour and courage, a share of his father's estate, namely, Edeyrneon and Dinmael, which he left to his sons Gruffydh, Blethyn and Jorwerth. Owen Madawc had to his portion Mechain-is Coed, and had issue Lhewelyn and Owen Fychan. But Gruffydh Maelor the eldest son, lord of Bromfield, had to his part, both the Maelors with Mochnant-is Raydar, and married Angharad the daughter of Owen Gwynedh prince of North Wales, by whom he had issue one son named Madawc, who held his father's inheritance entirely, and left it so to his only son Gruffydh, who was called lord of Dinas Bran, because he lived in that castle: he married Emma the daughter of James Lord Audley, by whom he had issue Madawc, Lhewelyn, Gruffydh, and Owen. This Gruffydh ap Madawc took part with king Henry the third and Edward the first against the prince of North Wales; and therefore for fear of the said prince, he was forced to keep himself secure within his castle of Dinas Bran, which being situated upon the summit of a very steep hill, seemed impregnable to all the daring efforts that could be used against it. After his death, Edward the first dealt very unkindly with his children, who were of age to manage their own concerns; and taking two of them privately away, bestowed the wardship of Madoc his eldest son, who had by his father's will, the lordships of Bromfield and Yale, with the reversion of Maelor, Saesnec, Hopesdale, and Moulsdale, his mother's jointure, on John earl Warren; and the wardship of Chirke and Nanheudwy, to Roger Mortimer, third son to Roger Mortimer the son of Ralph Mortimer, lord Mortimer of Wigmor. But Emma, Gruffydh's wife, having in her possession for her dowry, Maelor Saesnec, Hopesdale, and Moulsdale with the presentation of Bangor rectory; and seeing two of her sons disinherited and done away, and the fourth dead, without

issue, and doubting lest Gruffydh her only surviving child could not long continue, she conveyed her estate to the Audleys, her own kin, who getting possession of it, took the same from the King, from whom it came to the house of Derby, where it continued for a long time; till at length it was sold to sir John Glyane, serjeant at law, in whose family it still remaineth. But earl Warren and Roger Mortimer, forgetting what signal service Gruffydh ap Madoc had performed for the King, guarded their new possessions with such caution and strictness, that they took especial care they should never return to any of the posterity of the legal proprietor; and therefore having obtained the King's patent, they began to secure themselves in the said lordships. John earl Warren began to build Holt castle, which was finished by his son William, and so the lordships of Bromfield and Yale continued in the name of the earls of Warren for three descents, viz. John, William, and John, who dying without issue; the said lordships, together with the earldom of Warren, descended to Alice, sister and heir to the last John earl Warren, who was married to Edmond Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, in which house they remained for three descents, namely, Edmund, Richard his son, and Thomas earl of Arundel. But for want of issue to this last Thomas earl of Arundel and Warren, the said lordship fell to two of his sisters, whereof one named Elizabeth was married to Thomas Mowbray duke of Norfolk, and the other called Joan, to William Beauchamp, lord of Abergavenny: but since they came to the hands of sir William Stanley, knight, who being attainted of high treason, they devolved by forfeiture to the crown, and now are annexed to the principality of Wales. But Roger Mortimer the other sharer in the lands of Gruffydh ap Madoc, was made justice of North Wales, built the castle of Chirke, and married Lucia the daughter and heir of sir Robert de Wafre, knight, by whom he had issue Roger Mortimer, who was married to Joan Tuberville, by whom he had John Mortimer lord of Chirke. This John sold the lordship of Chirke to Richard Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, Edmund's son, and so it was again annexed to Bromfield and Yale.

The

The third son of Gruffydh lord of Dinas Bran, named also Gruffydh, had for his part Glyn Dwrdwy, which Gruffydh ap Gruffydh had issue Madoc Crupl, who was the father of Madoc Fychan, the father of Gruffydh, the father of Gruffyh Fychan; who was the father of Owen Glyndwr, who rebelling in the days of Henry the fourth, Glyndwydwy by confiscation came to the King, of whom it was afterwards purchased by Robert Salisbury of Rug, in whose family it still remaineth. Owen, the fourth son of Gruffydh lord of Dinas Bran, had for his share Cynlhaeth with the rights and privileges thereunto belonging. The other part of Powys, comprehending the counties of Arustly, Cyfeilioc, Lhannerch-hudol, Caereneon, Mochnach, uwch Rayadr, Mechan uwch Coed, Moudhwy, Deudhwr, Ystrad Marchelch, and Teir Tref, or the Three Towns, rightfully descended to Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Blethyn, by Henry the first, created lord Powis, who married Gweyryl or Weyryl the daughter of Urgene ap Howel ap Iefaf ap Cadogan ap Athelstan Glodryth, by whom he had issue Owen surnamed Cyfeilioc. This Owen enjoyed his father's estate entire, and married Gwenlhiam the daughter of Owen Gwynedh prince of North Wales, who bore him one son, named Gwenwynwyn or Wenwynwyn, from whom that part of Powis was afterwards called Powis Wenwynwyn. He had moreover a base brother, called Caswallon, upon whom he bestowed the counties of Swydh Lhannerch Hudol, and Braniarth. Gwenwynwyn succeeded his father in all his estate, saving what Caswalhon enjoyed, and married Margaret the daughter of Rhys ap Theodor, prince of South Wales, by whom he had Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn, who succeeding his father in all his possessions, had issue six sons, by Margaret the daughter of Robert Corbet, brother to Thomas lord Corbet of Cous; and so the entire estate of Gruffydh ap Meredith ap Blethyn, lord of Powis, became shattered, and torn into divers pieces. Owen, Gruffydh ap Gwenwynwyn's eldest son, had for his part Arustly, Cyfeilioc, Lhannerch Hudol, and a part of Caereneon; Lhwelyn had Mochnant uwch, Rayadr and Mechain uwch Coed; John the third

son, had the fourth part of Caereneon; William had Mondhwy; Gruffydh Pychan had Deudhwr Ystrat-Marchell, and Teir Tref; and David the sixth and youngest son, had the other fourth part of Caereneon. Owen ap Gruffydh had issue one only daughter, named Hawys Gadarn, or the Hardy, whom he left his heir; but her uncles Lhewelyn, John, Gruffydh Fychan and David, thinking it an easy matter to dispossess an orphan, challenged the lands of their brother Owen, alledging for a cloak to their usurpation, that a woman was not capable of holding any lands in that country. But Hawys made such friends in England, that her case was made known to king Edward the second, who bestowed her in marriage upon a servant of his, named John Charleton, termed Valectus domini regis, who was born at Appley near, Wellington, in the county of Salop, anno one thousand two hundred and sixty-eight, and in her right, created him lord Powis.

This John Charlton lord Poyws, being aided and supported by the king of England, quickly broke all their measures; and having taken Lhewelyn, John and David, his wife's uncles, he put them in safe custody, in the king's castle of Harlech; and then obtained a writ from the king to the sheriff of Shropshire, and to sir Roger Mortimer, lord of Chirkland, and justice of North Wales, for the apprehension of Gruffydh Fychan, with his sons-in-law, sir Roger Chambes and Hugh Montgomery, who were then in actual hostility against him and his wife Hawys. But Gruffydh Fychan and his accomplices suspecting their own strength, and having lost Thomas earl of Lancaster, their main support, thought it most adviseable to submit themselves to the King's pleasure, touching the difference betwixt them and Hawys; who finding upon record, how that Gruffydh ap Meredith, ancestor to the said Hawys, upon his submission to King Henry the first, became subject to the king of England, and thereupon was created baron of Powis, which barony he and his posterity had ever since held in capite from the King; was of opinion, that Hawys had more right to her father's possessions now in their hands, than any pretence they could lay

to

to her estate. But to make a final determination of this matter, and to compose the difference more amicably betwixt them; it was agreed, that Hawys should enjoy her inheritance in fee simple to her and her heirs for ever, after the tenure of England; and that her uncles Lhewelyn, John, David, and Gruffydh should quietly enjoy their portion, and the same to descend to their heir males perpetually; but in default of such heir males the same was to descend to Hawys and her heirs. But William lord of Moudhwy, because he did not join with the rest against Hawys, had all his lands confirmed to him, and to all his heirs, both male and female for ever. He married Elianor, the sister of Elen, Owen Glyndwr's mother, who was lineally descended from Rhys ap Theodore, prince of South Wales, by whom he had issue John de Mowdhwy; whose daughter Elizabeth, being heir to his whole estate, was married to one sir Hugh Burgh, knight. His son sir John Burgh, lord of Mowdhwy, married Jane the daughter of sir William Clapton of Glocestershire, by whom he had four daughters, Elizabeth, Ancreda, Isabel, and Elianor; the first of whom was married to Thomas Newport, the second to John Leighton of Stretton; the third to John Lingen, and the younger to Thomas Mytton; who by equal distribution, had the lordship of Modhwy divided betwixt them.

But John Charleton, lord of Powis, had issue by his wife Hawys, a son named John, who enjoyed the same lordship for about seven years, and then left it to his son, of the same name, who was lord of Powis fourteen years; and then it descended to his son, called also John Charleton, who enjoyed his father's estate twenty-seven years; but dying without issue, the lordship of Powys fell to his brother Edward Charleton. This Edward had issue by his wife Elianor, the daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas earl of Kent, and the widow of Roger Mortimer earl of March, two daughters, Jane and Joyce, the first of which was married to sir John Grey, knight; and the second to John lord Tiptoft, whose son was by king Henry VI. created earl of Worcester. But after the death of Elianor,

this Edward lord Powis married Elizabeth the daughter of sir John Barkley, knight; and so after his death, which happened in the year 1420, the lordship of Powis was divided into three parts, whereof his widow Elizabeth had for her jointure Lhannerch Hudol, Ystrad Marchelh, Deudhar and Teirtref, and was afterwards married to lord Dudley. Jane, his eldest daughter, had Caereneon, Mechain, Mochnant, and Plasdinas; and Joyce had Cyfeilioc, and Arustly. But the lordship of Powis continued in the family of sir John Gray, for five descents, in right of his wife Jane; the last of whom, Edward Gray, lord Powys, married Anne, one of the daughters and coheirs of Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and died without any lawful issue. This Edward lord Powys, in 15th Henry VIII. accompanied the duke of Suffolk in the expedition then made into France, and was at the taking of Bray, and other places then won from the French. And in 36th Henry VIII. being again ready to march in the king's service, he made his last testament, whereby he settled the succession of his whole barony and lordship of Powys, his castle and manor of Pool, with divers other lordships in the county of Montgomery, and all the rest of his estate in the county of Salop, upon the heirs of his own body lawfully begotten, or to be begotten; and in default of such issue, his castle and manor of Charlton and Pontisbury in Shropshire, upon Jane Orwell, daughter of sir Lewis Orwell, knight, and her assigns, during her natural life. And in case he should die without any issue of his own body lawfully begotten, that then Edward Gray, his illegitimate son by the same Jane Orwell, should have and enjoy his said barony and manor of Powis, his castle and manor of Pool, and all other his lordships in the county of Montgomery; with the reversion of the castle and manor of Charlton and Pontisbury, to him and his heirs lawfully begotten; and for lack of such issue, to remain to that child, in case it should be a son, wherewith the same Jane Orwell was then great by him, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. But if it should not prove a son, or if the son die without issue, then that the whole barony

barony of Powis and all the premises before-mentioned, should come to Jane Gray, his other daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and for lack of such issue, to Anne Gray, his other daughter, and heirs of her body lawfully begotten; and lastly for default of such issue, to such woman-child as should be born of the body of the said Jane Orwell. But after Edward Gray, the title of lord of Powis lay extinct to the fifth year of king Charles I. When sir William Herbert son of sir Edward Herbert of Redcastle (antiently called Pool castle, now Powis castle) in the county of Montgomery, second son to William earl of Pembrock, was advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm, by the title of lord Powis of Powis, in the marches of Wales, in whose family it continues, though the title has been changed from a baron to an earl, and since to a marquis.*"

Divisions, &c.] Thus it will appear, that Powys Wenwynwyn, so called from a prince of that name, son of Owain Cyveiliog, containing five cantrevs, nearly answered to the present county, and received the subsequent appellation of Montgomeryshire. The original division was, as follows:

1. The cantref or hundred of *Y. Vyrnwy*, containing the comots of Mochnant, uwch Rhaiadr; Mechain is Coed, and Llanerch Hudol.

2. The cantref, or hundred of *Ystlle*, containing the comots of Ddeudwr, Gorddwr Isaf, and Ystrad Marchell.

3. The cantref, or hundred of *Llyswynaf*, containing the comots of Caer Einion, and Mechain uwch Coed.

4. The cantref or hundred of *Cydewain*, containing the comots of Uwch Hanes (Afes), and Is Hanes (Afes).

5. The cantref, or hundred of *Cydewain*, containing the comots of Cyveiliog and Maddwy.

The

* Wynne's History of Walet, p. 179.

On the death of lord Powys; in the year 1800, the earldom became extinct; but the title was revived in favour of his brother-in-law, Edward lord Clive; and whose son is now the owner of Powys castle.

The present Montgomeryshire is bounded on the north by Denbighshire; by Shropshire on the east, and north east; on the south east by Radnorshire; on the south west by Cardiganshire; and by Merionethshire on the west. The dimensions have been variously given, but the most accurate statement seems to be, that which makes the length North to South, from the extremities of Llangurig, on the borders of South Wales, to Pistyl Rhaiadr, a noted cataract in the Berwyn hills, 35 miles; and its breadth, east to west, from Montgomery to Machynleth, 30 miles; comprising, according to Templeman's statement, 444,800 acres; by computation 560,000; but by a recent survey, taken from Evans's map of North Wales, the acreage appears to amount to 491,600: About 60 thousand of these are arable; 180,000 under pasturage; and about 250,000 waste, or in an uncultivated state, including woodlands and other plantations.

It is divided into nine hundreds, viz. *Llanfyllin, Deuddwr, Pool, Cawrse, Mathrafal, Machynleth, Llanydloes, Newtown*, and *Montgomery*: comprising forty-seven parishes, and seven market towns; viz. Montgomery, a borough and the county town, Welsh Pool, Llanfyllin, Llanfair, Machynleth, Newtown, and Llanydloes. By the returns made to Parliament, the number of houses in 1801, amounted to 8725, and that of the inhabitants to 47,978, viz. 22,494 males and 25,054 females; of which aggregate population 6233 were reported, as occupied in trade, handicraft, or manufacture; and 13,082, as occupied in the labours of agriculture. The money, raised for the use of the poor in 1803, was 22,988*l.* averaging a rate of 5*s.* 11¼*d.* in the pound. For ecclesiastical jurisdiction it is distributed into three portions. Part lying in the diocese of Bangor, part in St. Asaph, and part in Hereford, and all included in the province of Canterbury.

It sends two representatives to the imperial Parliament; one, as knight of the shire; and the other, as burgess for the borough of Montgomery. Formerly the towns of Llanydloes, Llanvylling, and Welshpool shared, as contributory boroughs, in the elective franchise to return a member for Montgomery; but

but they lost that privilege, by a resolution of the Commons-House, in the case of an electioneering petition, preferred in the year 1728.

Its HONORIAL distinctions are confined to two families, Powys castle gives the title of an earldom to that of *Clive*; and Montgomery to that of *Herbert*.

CLIMATE, SURFACE, SOIL, &c.] Owing to the great irregularity of soil and surface, there arises a very considerable difference, as to the state of climature in this county. The midland, western, and south-western parts, are unfavourable to the growth of corn: both from the ungenial nature of the soil, and the elevated exposure. The narrow vallies are more friendly to vegetation, and highly productive, both in corn and grass; but the finest arable land lies on the eastern side of the county, bordering on Shropshire; where agriculture has of late years received considerable improvement; and the management of land varies but little from that adopted in the adjacent county.

The air of the hills is bleak, that of the confined vallies are frequently boisterous, but highly salubrious; as the numerous instances of longevity, recorded on the stones, 'that mark the humble annals of the poor', abundantly testify.

The westerly winds have been observed to blow, on the average, nine months in the year, and the easterly to prevail the remaining three. The strongest winds are those, which blow from the south-west, or the north-west. Trees are seldom deracinated, or houses and barns unroofed, except from storms proceeding from these quarters. Sleet and hail are the frequent accompaniments of both these winds; and the latter is termed in Montgomeryshire, *Gwynt y Creigiau*, allusive to the Snowdonian mountains, over it which blows. The east wind according to the adage

> "The wind in the east
> "Is neither good for man, nor beast,"

is here, as in other instances, stigmatized by an epithet, expressive of the country from whence it is observed to proceed.

In those parts of this county west of Shrewsbury, it receives the appellation of *Gwynt coch y Mwythig*, or the red wind of Salop.* Although there are many orchards, and gardens in the vales, abounding with fruit; yet all attempts to introduce them profitably in the highest parts of the district have hitherto proved abortive. The spring seldom proving sufficiently mild for the bloom to be preserved from the laggering rear of winter's frosts: and if the trees escape the paralyzing effects of easterly winds; still the wetness and coldness, frequently experienced in the summer months, vitiates the flavour of the most delicious fruits, when compared with those ripened in milder aspects.

The greater part of the county assumes a mountainous characteristic, and considerable portions exhibit strong features of forbidding sterility.

A line, commencing at Pumlumon, or Plinlimmon, on the south-eastern part of the district, runs in a north-westerly direction, between Llanbrynmair, and Carno, to Llyn Gwyddiot lake; thence to Bwlch y Groes, where, near Aran Fowddwy, it enters the adjacent county, through which it continues in nearly the same line, till it terminates in the valley of Festiniog. This has been termed, the backbone of Montgomeryshire and Merionethshire. "A person may walk this line of fifty miles in extent, without crossing a rivulet; as it is the parting ridge of the eastern and western streams. A farm-house in this line, near Drws y Nant, is so situated, that the rain water which falls on the western side of the roof flows into Cardigan bay, at Barmouth; and that which falls on the eastern side flows into the Irish sea at Chester bar.†"

The *Freiddin*, or *Bridden* hills, form a noble group on the eastern side of the county; one of which Moel y Golfa stands most conspicuously pre-eminent; and Cefn y Castell little less so. On the south, the *Biga* mountains, lying on the north side of

* See more on this interesting subject, with a very curious diary, containing important meteorological observations, in Davies's General View, &c. of the Agriculture of North Wales, p. 7, &c.

† Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 22.

of the valley, through which the Severn flows, and a collateral branch of the Plinlimmon ridge, form a line of high table land several miles in extent. Besides these, numerous isolated hills, and crags, present themselves in almost every direction.

RIVERS, &c.] The main streams, that fall on the western side of the ridge are the Traeth-bach river, flowing through the valley of Festiniog; the Maw, watering the low-lands near Dolgellen, which will be noticed, as belonging to Merionethshire; and the *Dovey*, passing the vale of Machynleth, may be considered, to a considerable extent, as claimable by Montgomeryshire. On the western side of this geological spine, are found the sources of the *Wye, Severn, Vyrnwy, Tanat, Rhaiadr, Ceiriog,* and *Dee.* The last two have been noticed in Denbighshire, and the former four originate in this county. These, with several other secondary streams, run nearly in a parallel course towards the vale of Chester, or the plains of Salop.

The Wye is not here mentioned first, for its being the most considerable river; but on account of placing the Severn in order with its contributory rivulets. The Wye rising on the south side of Plinlimmon, and taking an easterly course, is joined by the Bedw rivulet at Llangerrig; whence flowing in a south-easterly direction, it soon leaves the county.

THE SEVERN as deriving its source on the side of Plinlimmon, or Pumlumon, has been described in its course to the sea, in the introductory remarks to the description of Cambria. But, as connected with this district, it may be proper to remark, that the character of the "Severn does not much assimilate with its mountainous origin, and it soon loses its native rapidity, forming large vales, and generally burying itself within deep banks. Its colour is far less transparent than that of the Wye, nor does it in any respect equal that river in picturesque beauty, or variety of grand scenery, though it is greatly superior in commercial importance, and the population of its several districts with their rich plains and fine cities. Even at Llanydloes it ceases to be a torrent, and from thence it forms a delightful valley, more like the extensive vales of England, than those stripes of cul-

of this county. The line, subject to the controul of the Montgomeryshire canal company, commences near Llanymynech lime-works, from whence there is an iron railway about two and a half miles in extent, by which the lime-stone is conveyed to the boats. From hence it proceeds southerly, and is carried over the river Vyrnwy by means of an aqueduct, consisting of five arches, each forty feet in the span, and twenty five feet above the ordinary surface of the water: exclusive of several collateral arches for the discharge of the surplus waters, brought down by land floods in rainy seasons. Thence passing Welsh pool, it goes on to Garthmill, below Berhiew. The proposed plan was, to have continued it to Newtown; but the sum granted in the act having been expended, and unforeseen difficulties occurring of various descriptions, especially the scarcity of water, the original design was abandoned; and the cut, at present terminates at the former place. This may with strict propriety be denominated an *agricultural* canal; the chief articles of its import, consisting of lime-stone, and coal; and of its export, timber, grain, and the products of the dairy. Notwithstanding, however, the navigation was opened, chiefly, for the encouragement of agriculture, yet so obstinate is prejudice, and so irradicable inveterate habits; few farmers will allow, that it affords them any derivable benefit. A person keeping a team, will rather prefer sending it the distance of from ten to eighteen miles, to the lime-rocks, or coal-pits; because he observes, that the articles are there obtained at prime cost; with the additional consideration of superior weight, and greater measure: not adverting to the more than countervailing advantages, arising from the local conveniencies of this water conveyance. Nay, they rather view it in a disadvantageous light. Those, through whose lands it was cut, still complain of the loss of land, without any equivalent reduction in their rents; and those whose meadow lands lie below its level, state the injury they sustain, by the oozings of the water, deteriorating the pasture; producing rushes and other sour herbage. Owing to this, and other causes, the Montgomeryshire canal,

for

for years, yielded no profit whatever to the proprietors; after a time, it came to pay common interest; but from casual damages, repairs of locks, bridges, &c. &c. causing occasionally very heavy drawbacks, and a grand export, timber, failing from the exhausted state of the woods; the returns, of late, have been very considerably below *par*.

The *soil* and *subatrata* vary, but not to so great an extent, as in some of the adjacent counties. The substance of the vales being chiefly of an argillaceous, and the mountains of a schistose nature. Thus the substance of Pumlumon (Plinlimmon) or Severn, range of hills, is chiefly an homogeneous shale, becoming friable in the air, and easily abraded by water, and in all probability contains but few ores of metals; therefore, when held in solution, and afterwards deposited, by water, it becomes the general matrix of vegetation. Northward from the Severn vale, the mountains retain their shaly and friable character, a few insulated rocks excepted, quite up to the vale of Vyrnwy; where, on the north side, the grey semi-indurated mountain rock commences, and continues still northward to the vale of Tanat, which received its soil by depositions from the Berwyn range of mountains, consisting of argillaceous schistus. Thus it may be seen, that not only the fertility of the soil, but also the extent of a vale depends upon the nature and quality of the mountains, and rocks by which they are surrounded. The Severn vale acquired its present superiority of extent and fertility, over those more northern, owing to the facility with which the diluvian tides excavated the friable shale of its surrounding eminences."* All vallies, at their sources, where the streams that water them flow rapidly, consist generally of a light gravelly soil; but the farther they extend, and the more expansive they become, from the waters proceeding nearer to a level in their course, the more loamy will be the sediment; and consequently the richer and more productive the soil.

* Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 23.

Limestone strata are rarely found in this district; the only limestone rocks of any consideration are in the vicinity of Llanymynech; the termination of a ridge, which comes from the north-west of Anglesea, in a line through the counties of Caernarvon, and Denbigh. A dark coloured argillaceous limestone is found, in what are termed, the lime rocks at Porthywaun, and which end in Powys-castle-park. The large proportion of argillaceous earth, which enters into the composition of this substance, renders it far inferior, both as a cement, and manure, to what, by way of distinction, is denominated *white lime*; but from its being generally burnt with peat, the ashes intermingle in large quantities with the lime; and from this commixture it forms an excellent top dressing for grazing lands. Peat, however, is not so plentiful in this, as the adjacent county of Merioneth; and in many instances far distant from the veins of limestone. This circumstance, and the canal facilitating the introduction of limestone superior in quality, has tended to bring the brown lime into disuse, as well as disrepute.

Natural Productions, &c. Among these, may be primarily considered its *mineralogical* substances: the most important of which is *lead*. Lead ore of various qualities, and divers quantities has been discovered in many parts of this district.

An ancient work of great note, and probably not exhausted, though sometime neglected is situated at Craig y mwyn, near Pistyll Rhaiadr.

A very considerable mine has been found at Dylivan to the west of Llanbryn mair.

At Esgair hir, on the borders of Cardiganshire, adjacent to a copper mine, called Esgair vraith, is a lead mine, the ore of which contains so much silver, that it has been considered a candidate with the rich mines of that county, for being considered the Welsh Potosi.

Recent and successful trials have been made on the Berthlwyd estate near Llanydloes. But the finest source of wealth, from

from this species of mineral, was found at Llangynnog. A lead mine discovered there in the year 1692, producing the kind of ore denominated *galena*, or potters' ore; was long worked with immense profit to the proprietor. Forty years it continued in a flourishing state, yielding about four thousand tons annually, which, at an average rate, sold at seven pounds per ton; making a net revenue to lord Powys of nearly twenty thousand pounds. The grand vein had a bearing, in mining phraseology, 'from the eight o'clock sun,' that is, from east-by-south, to west-by-north. The width of the vein has been differently stated. One writer says, 'upwards of five yards:' and another three yards and a half. There is reason to suppose it was somewhat less than the latter statement; for an old miner reported, that he had frequently seen the tallest of the workmen lying across the vein, with their arms extended, without being able to reach from rider to ledger. On pursuing the vein in an easterly direction, a fault was observed; and on following the dip towards the west, the water became so powerful, as to inundate the work, which consequently was obliged to be relinquished. Most lead ores in other parts of North Wales, particularly Flintshire, are imbedded in limestone, or chert; but the Llangynnog vein passes through an argillaceous schistus, or grey stratified mountain rock, in a matrix of amorphous quartz.* Several years elapsed, when some neighbouring miners associated, and having obtained leave of the manorial lord to try an adventure, paying a certain tonnage on account of such grants, for a time they prosecuted it with considerable profit; but they did little more, than pursue the ramifications of the main vein; or collect fragments of ore, the refuse of the former mining concern. The failure, as to prosecuting the most productive vein, is thus accounted for. "Llangyn-

* See a description of the diagonal ramifications of this grand vein, with its several bearings exemplified by a plate in Davies's Agriculture of North Wales.

nog was perhaps the richest vein of lead ore, for the time it lasted, of any yet discovered in this island. They had there a solid rib, for a considerable time, five yards wide, of clean ore in the middle of the vein, which was poured out of the kebbles at the shaft-head into the waggons, and carried directly to the smelting-house, without being touched by the washers or dressers of ore, besides several feet upon the sides of the veins, which was mixed with spar and other stony matter; and went through the hands of the washers.

This rich and noble vein was at once cut out below by a bed of black schistus, or shiver, and that so entirely, that there was not the least fissure, or vestige of the vein remaining, or ever could be found afterwards, though diligent search was made by the most skilful miners for several years, and at different times.—When the slip vein is in a twitch, whether it be horizontal or perpendicular, the vein will open again when they sink down or drive forward through the twitch; but it never opened, nor no trace of the vein could ever be found at Llangynnog, though diligently sought for at a very great expence; and no wonder they did not find it, when in fact it was not to be found. The crack or gash which broke asunder the harder rock above, did not enter into the bed of shiver below, and, of consequence there was no vein or fissure in the schistus in that place."*

Notwithstanding this distressing account, calculated to produce a most inauspicious prospect to future adventurers; yet the spirit of subterraneous investigation has lately been roused. A new company have taken these mines on lease, and, for draining them, driven a level at a vast expence; and what is an encouraging circumstance, the miners in their progress, have met with blocks of pure ore, weighing from seventy to one hundred pounds weight each.

Slates. The ranges of hills, in which the valuable substance slate is obtained, have been previously noticed; the places,

* Williams's Nat. Hist. of the Mineral Kingdom, vol. I. p. 274.

places, however, where they are procured, and manufactured within this county, it will be proper briefly to notice.

The principal of these are in the vicinity of Llangynnog. From a stupendous rock, pre-eminently rising on the north side of the village, are obtained those slates, which, for strength and durability, are celebrated for the purposes of roofing through this and the adjacent counties. The quarries are situated high up the declivous sides of the mountain; and the mode of conveying them to the valley below will appear to an observer, especially a stranger, extremely dangerous. The slates are placed on small sledges, adapted to the work; which are let down along winding paths, formed by art, in the following curious manner. Each of these sledges is fastened to the shoulders of a man, who has the care of delivering the cargo at the base of the mountain, by means of a rope, of which he lays fast hold with both his hands; and then, turning his face towards the load, he begins to move, receding gradually backwards. But as the sledge descends, its velocity, according to the laws of gravitation, is increased; and the accelerated motion, which otherwise must prove fatal, is counteracted and retarded, by the man frequently striking forcibly with his foot against the various prominences, that present themselves in the course of his route. This manœuvre, however, since his motion is retrograde, and his attention at the same time called to the sledge, to keep it in the zig-zag track, must be of difficult attainment; and long habit can alone render it easy, and safe. Owing to this experience, although an hazardous employ, few serious accidents ever occur: and persons engage in it with as much cheerfulness, as others do for performing the labours of agriculture. The slates, procured from these quarries, are strong, and of a firm tenacious lamina; but numerous quartzose veins, pervading the whole mass of the rock, they are consequently of a coarser texture; and exhibit a less even surface, than those of a more homogeneous composition. By chemical analysis, the tenacity of the

component part far exceeds the finer blue slate, or even the coarse grey slate, dug in the vicinity of Chirk; the former resisting the sulphuric acid for ten days; while the latter exhibits symptoms of decomposition in less than four.

It is a fact, worthy of remarking, that these, and other quarries to the northward, have their strata incline, or dip, towards the same point; viz. to the east, while in those to the southward, the case is reversed. The point of division between the eastern and western inclinations is, at Bwlch sych, in the parish of Hirnant, about three miles to the south-west of Llangynnog. The quantity of slates, annually procured varies proportionably with the demand. Mr. Pennant observes, that between November 1775 and November 1776, upwards of 904,000 slates were sent from hence at different rates of betwixt six shillings, and twenty shillings per thousand.' A late competent writer states, that the two quarries dispose of about a million of slates annually, until the year 1803, alluding to the average, it is presumed, 'they sold for 13s. per thousand, since 16s.'*

Lime, as previously observed, except the brown argillaceous sort, is a rare article in this part of the country. The more valuable kind is carried from Porthywaen, and Llanymynech rocks, on the confines of Shropshire, to the distance of thirty and forty miles. In the line of the canal the stone is conveyed by the navigation, as far as Pool and Berhiew; and large kilns have been erected on the different wharfs, for reducing it into the state of quick-lime.

Coal is a grand desideratum in this county, and the scarcity, arising from the difficulty of obtaining it, in many places is severely felt especially by the lower classes of society. Till lately Montgomeryshire was considered totally destitute of this valuable fuel. Nor has it now much to boast of in this respect. In an angle of the county, at Coedwae on the borders of Salop, a few

* Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 411.

a few pits have been opened, capable of producing about twelve tons per day. The coal procured from these is of a most pleasing quality, though complained of, for its rapid combustion. This arises from its inflammable matter, consisting chiefly of pure carbon, combined with a larger portion of the bituminous substance, called maltha, than asphalt.

Woods and *Plantations.*] This county, still the best wooded of any in North Wales, was once so covered with trees, that in the time of Henry the third, quantities were ordered to be cut down by command of that monarch, to prevent ambush, and destroy the cover they afforded for the advantageous retreat of the Welsh forces. Within a century back the woods were so abundant, that they supplied the greater part of the inhabitants with fuel; which consisted of cleft timber; and that not of decayed, but a great portion of the best kind. Much of the latter, about eighty years ago, found its way to a more profitable market; being sold for the use of the dock-yards. The first contract for the Navy was from Abertanat wood, on the Shropshire boundary; then followed, in 1750, the woods of Powys-castle-park, Aber Nait, and Tref-Edryd. Since that period this county has contributed largely towards the furtherance, both of naval and commercial architecture. Indeed such was the celebrity of Montgomeryshire oak, in several dock-yards, particularly Deptford, and Plymouth, that a strong competition was excited among persons, employed to purchase, which produced a speculation, that raised the price above the standard in the counties of Hereford and Monmouth, districts, much more advantageously situated, for its conveyance, possessing the convenience of a water-carriage. The size and quality of the oak of this county may, in a degree, be estimated from the fall at Vaenor park, which in the year 1796, deprived the county of much of its valuable timber. Among those felled, one was in girt 68 inches in circumference, at the height of 73 feet. Another measured 687 cubic feet, and was valued at two shillings per foot, exclusive of the bark. A third

contained in the whole 525 feet. The park produced a large number, also, measuring from 400 to 450 feet each.

This example of felling was quickly followed by many other gentlemen, and the canal, affording a facility for conveyance of so ponderous an article to a distant market; the country has been miserably stripped of one of its richest ornaments. Some good sticks however still remain. The late Arthur Blayney esq. of Cregynnog was peculiarly careful in the preservation of his woods, and attentive to the growth of valuable timber.

On the Garth estate, in the vicinity of Welsh Pool, according to a computed estimate, there are growing choice oaks, calculated for the use of the navy, to the amount of 30,000l. in value.

But these are exceptions to the late general phrenzy for felling, and disposing of 'the pride of the forest'; for it must be acknowledged by those least disposed to be cynical, that the landed proprietors in Montgomeryshire have in general, of late years, displayed much greater assiduity in clearing their estates of timber; than in endeavouring to repair the loss by successional planting. This is not only to be regretted on account of the privations posterity must necessarily feel from the deficiency, but is highly censurable; since the defalcation, by proper attention in planting, &c. might be, in the course of a few years, so amply supplied. For as Johnson so strongly intimated, when observing the woodless tracts of country he passed in Scotland; that all excuse for such nudity was not an admissible plea; 'because it was only to commit the acorn to the soil, to raise the future oak.' But where woods have been recently felled, were they immediately fenced, the necessity of future planting would be intirely superseded. Of this fact the wood-lands belonging to lord Powys afford luxuriant demonstrations.

To these numerous instances of unpardonable neglect, in the view of every well-wisher of his country, many honourable exceptions may be made. Among which the late Bell Lloyd, esq. of Bodfach appears to have been entitled to hold the

the first rank. His plantations in the neighbourhood, covering above sixty-one acres of land, comprise about 171,000 trees of different species, such as firs, pines, pine-asters, larch, beech, &c.; and include in the number upwards of 5000 oaks. He planted also about 33,000 in the parishes of Kerry and Llanddyssul; making his Montgomeryshire plantations to consist of 204,000. His son and worthy successor, sir Edward Price Lloyd, pursues the same spirited method of enriching the barren waste, and improving the face of the country. Exclusive of his immense plantations in Caernarvonshire and Flintshire, he has ornamented the parishes of Llanfyllen and Trevegiwys with upwards of 13,000. These examples have not been without their beneficial effects. Within the last ten or twelve years, many thousands of forest trees have been planted in different parts, for which gold medals have been justly merited, and received, from that useful institution, the Society of Arts.

AGRICULTURE.] The state of husbandry in this district is extremely various, owing to causes, partially arising from the different nature of the soils, the confined prejudices of ignorant farmers, or the more enlightened views of liberal agriculturists.

Respecting the proportion of arable and grass lands in this county, it has been computed, that about one third portion is under tillage, and the other two reserved for herbage: the former consisting principally of the vales, and the latter of upland, or mountainous pasture.

Fallowing, that opprobrium of georgical science, is still adopted on some of the best lands in the vales of the Vyrnwy, in a similar manner as the practice obtains in the vale of Clwyd; while on the more sterile soils, it is generally considered too expensive an operation, to be performed; and only admissible on the most productive estates.

The crops are of divers kinds, and the rotations almost as varied. They are not reducible to any regular four, or five-field husbandry. On the best soils, the succession is,

1. Turnips,

the former, or any other in the adjacent parts; because they have when slaughtered less offal, and collect greater bulk on the more valuable parts. The Hereford kind, distinguished by their white faces, have recently become very general in the eastern part of the county.

Of *sheep* there are two kinds, generally stating, in Montgomeryshire. The one peculiar to the Kerry hills, and supposed the only kind, or variety in North Wales, that produces perfect wool; that of the other breeds being usually more or less debased by the intermixture of coarse long hairs, denominated by dealers kemps, making the article appear of a very inferior quality; and which render it to manufacturers of far less value. The discriminating characteristics of this breed are, large wide cheeks, covered with wool, bunchy forehead, notty, having no horns, white woolly legs, and a broad beaver-like tail. In shape they are wanting in symmetry; but were this defect removed, by proper attention, in crossing &c., this breed might be worthy of universal adoption throughout the Principality. A second kind is a black-faced, fine-woolled sheep, bred on a mountainous ridge, extending from the vicinity of Welsh Pool, in a southerly direction, called the Long mountain; and other hills bordering on Shropshire in a line reaching nearly to Wrexham.

Other breeds, both local, and cross, are kept by some experimental farmers on inclosed grounds.

It is a curious fact that the contagious and destructive disease to which the animal is subject, called the *scab*, was long a stranger to him, while an isolated resident of Wales. The Welsh sheep are not naturally infected with this disorder; but are liable to receive it from extraneous flocks. "About the year 1774, a gentleman with the patriotic intention of improving the Anglesey breed, brought thither a Dishley ram, and with him the scab; a disease, till then, totally unknown in North Wales; and it is to be lamented, that the infection soon found its way from Anglesey across the Menai; and proceeding through the hardy race of Snowdon, into the counties of Meirion-

Meirionydd and Montgomery, it continues its progress eastward towards its native country, having completed the fashionable tour of North Wales."*

Horses. There is a breed of this useful animal, peculiar to the hilly parts of this county, and that of Merioneth. They are a kind of small ponies denominated *merlyns*. Ranging at large over the mountains during the summer and winter, they are, from the circumstances of such exposure, a very hardy race. They are never brought down from the parts, where they were reared, until they are three years old; when they are considered fit for sale. On such occasions they are driven within a ring fence, and such as answer the purpose, are separated from the rest for disposal, and the remainder discharged, or set at liberty for a time, to resume their favourite stations. "They are driven from the hills to fairs, like flocks of wild sheep; and the place of sale exhibits, in some degree an amphitheatre, where manhood and poneyhood strive for the victory. When a chapman has fixed upon his choice at a distance, the wrestler, being generally the seller's servant, rushes into the midst of the herd, and seizes the selected animal; which never before touched by human hand, struggles with all its might to extricate itself; and in some particular situations, both have tumbled topsy-turvy from the summit of a steep hill down into a river beneath; the biped still continuing his grasp, and the quadruped disdaining tamely to submit."† Many of these are used within their native district, and though they fetch but a small price, their labour, as beasts of burthen, has been found very beneficial to their respective owners. In traversing the mountains, and climbing the slippery ascents through the different bwlchs, they stand unrivalled. The manufactured articles are collected from different parts, by a kind of salesmen, who pack them up, and convey them on the backs of these merlyns to Welsh Pool, or Shrewsbury markets. To this traffic,

* Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 330.

† Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 334.

fic, and the mode of its conducting a celebrated poet descriptively alludes.

"The Northern Cambrians an industrious tribe,
Carry their labours on Pygmean steeds,
Of size exceeding not Leicestrian sheep,
Yet strong and sprightly; over hill and dale
They travel unfatigued, and lay their bales
In Salop's Streets, beneath whose lofty walls
Pearly Sabrina waits them with her barks,
And spreads the swelling sheet.——"*

This useful race, for a declivous country, has evidently of late years been on the decline, as to comparative value. What has tended greatly to their deterioration, destroying the good qualities, and altering their shape, has been the imprudent practice, still pertinaciously persisted in, of leaving the propagation of their species to time and chance; the consequence of which promiscuous method of breeding is deformity, and a gradual diminution in size.

A hardy, active, and rather handsome breed, larger than these, appears to have been a cross between the merlyn and the English horse. The larger kind is exceedingly well adapted for the team on mountainous farms; where the strength of heavier horses would be egregiously misapplied. Those, which are too small for agricultural purposes, are very serviceable as hacknies; and with light weights make excellent roadsters.

The vales in this county have, for centuries, been noted for a peculiarly fine breed, which has been attributed to some blood horses, introduced into this part of the country from Spain, by Robert earl of Shrewsbury.† And it is said, that queen Elizabeth kept a famous stud of horses, and brood mares, at Park in this county, for the purpose of perpetuating the high-mettled race.‡

Consider-

* Dyer's Fleece.
† Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 173.
‡ Pennant's Tours, Vol. III. p. 194.

Considerable agricultural *improvements* have been made in this county, within the space of a few years. These consist of different items, such as deeper ploughing; giving a finer tilth to the land; in manuring with a less sparing hand, and in grubbing up wide useless banks, and bringing the operations of the plough nearer to the real fences. But the greatest of all is, the inclosing of waste lands. The following schedule will furnish an idea of the important change, that has recently taken place for the advantage of the county, and society in general, by the inclosing system:

	Date of the Act	*Acreage.*
Globwil and Bachau	1775	125
Strata Marcellina, Tir y Mynerch' and Deuddwr	1788	2,600
Plas Dinas and Mechain Iscoed	1789	5,000
Kedewain, Hopetown, Overgorddwr	1796	15,000
Kerry	1797	20,000
	Total	42,725 acres.

Such was the progress of inclosures in the year 1799; since which period the examples, then set, have been still further followed. The commons in the townships of Crigion and Winnington, part of which lie in the county of Salop, have been inclosed by the unanimous consent of the parties interested without incurring the expence of an application to parliament. And other manors and townships are preparing to adopt the same judicious measures; viz. Main, Dyffryn, Peniarth, and Teirtrev, in the parish of Meifod, containing about 1400 acres: and Llannerchhudol, Tempster, and Trehelyg, near Welsh Pool, consisting of about 700 acres.

Roads, Bridges, &c. The roads of Montgomeryshire are far

far from being so good, as in many other parts of Wales, owing to a circumstance seldom attended to by strangers, who querulously complain of their badness: viz. the want of proper materials for their construction, and repair. Other counties abound with granite, and various silicious substances, or with compact lime stone, &c. by which means the preserving of roads, when once well formed, is much facilitated; but the case is reversed in Montgomeryshire. The principal road, which extends from Llanydloes to the lime works and collieres in Denbighshire and Shropshire runs the greater part of its length along flat vales, and the necessary supplies for its wear and tear, are brought from a very considerable distance; and these consist of soft and friable substances, such as shale, and slate. It is well known, that pressure, and friction, by the aid of water, will soon reduce these to their primitive clay. The same reasoning may be applied to most of the other roads, though some of them, like many in Wales ascending the brows of hills are descriptive of the national character. In this county, as there is but little travelling with light carriages, both statute duty and the principal part of the tolls, lie intirely upon the farmers. It must reflect credit, however, upon the public spirit of the gentry, that since the obtaining the turnpike act, above 260 miles have been made within it.' Towards forming these, recourse was had to the procuring of subscriptions, which were as liberally granted, as they were assiduously solicited; and what redounds further to their honour, most of the lands were gratuitously bestowed for the beneficial purposes proposed.

Few counties possess more and in some instances better bridges, according to the breadth, or nature of the streams over which they are thrown; and generally speaking they are kept in good repair. But this principally applies to the more cultivated parts of the county: the bridges in the south and western districts being principally constructed of wood, and do not receive the requisite attention, to keep them in a good state of reparation.

MANUFAC-

MANUFACTURES. The *flannel* district, as it may be justly termed, though it forms a considerable portion of the county, is principally confined to the south-west part of it; extending in length from Dolobran on the north-east, to Llanydloes on the south-west, about twenty one miles; and in breadth, about nineteen miles from Berhiew in the east, to Llanbrynmair, on the west.

"Formerly the whole was manufactured in the most literal acceptation of the term by the tedious operation of the hand, by farmers and cottagers in their own houses. Of late the powerful agency of water has been brought to their assistance; and about forty carding, and several spinning, machines have been erected in different parts of the county.

Beside these, there are other manufactories upon larger scales. Several at Newtown; one near Berhiew; one at Welsh Pool; one on the Dulas stream near Machynlleth belonging to Mr. Arthur Williams. He buys the greater part of his wool from the counties of Brecknock and Radnor, in South Wales, and finds constant employment for twenty weavers; but more webs are made here than flannels. Another at Dolobran, about six miles west of Welsh Pool, built in the year 1789 on a branch of the river Vyrnwy. This establishment, at one time, employed about a hundred weavers.

An opportunity is here afforded of correcting an error, lately, become prevalent in London, and several places, of confounding the Rochdale 'stoved white Welsh flannels' with the Montgomeryshire real Welsh flannels; while in fact they are very different, agreeing neither in length of pieces, in quantity of wool, nor in the mode of manufacture.

The Rochdale flannels never exceed 48 yards a piece; sell from 10½d. to 2s. 5d. per yard; have their warp sized in the weaving: are afterwards stoved with brimstone; and owing to their being drawn finer in the thread than the coarseness of the wool will well admit of, they generally appear threadbare.

On the contrary, the Mongomeryshire flannels are from 100 to 120, and some of the finer sort 132 yards long, and seven-eighths of a yard wide. They shrink generally about six inches in width, by being milled; and are sold from 1s. to 4s. per yard. Instead of size, a glutinous kind of bluish clay is used in their weaving. They are bleached three times under the hammers of the fulling mill; the first time with urine; the second with fullers earth; and the third with soap. The frize or nap is raised on them, not by carding, but by the adhesion of the several foldings, when the pieces are laid in a particular manner for the purpose. This nappiness gives them a peculiar softness of texture, arising from the quality of the wool; and renders them exceedingly well adapted to be worn next the skin of the most delicate invalid. The comfort they afford in this instance, and the general approbation of the public at large, of the united opinion of the faculty in recommending the wearing of them, may in time produce a visible alteration in the London bills of mortality.

The manufacturers are the wholesale venders of their own flannels, sending them to their dealers in different parts of the kingdom without the intervening additional charge of commission, or agency. The farmers and cottagers, who still make them in the old method, formerly brought each his own manufacture to meet the Salopian, and other drapers, at Welsh Pool market; which is regularly kept every alternate Monday throughout the year. Of late a most useful set of men, although branded by our Law, before the principles and theory of trade were well understood, with the odious epithet of fore-stallers, have appeared; who go about the country, and buy all the pieces they can. They seem well calculated to compel the over-wealthy drapers to allow a more regular and diffusive division of the profits of buying; while at the same time they save the indigent manufacturer the trouble, loss of time, and expense; of coming from 10 to 25 miles to market, for the sake of selling only one piece. Whether these itinerant jobbers rival their masters the drapers, in the manœuvre of the thumb

and

and yard by measure, is a question that must not be decided at present; it may however be presumed, that they do not, for they give general satisfaction to the country.

Several pieces of the finest flannels measure 132 yards, and some still more; we will suppose one thirtieth part of the whole manufacture to be of that length, and the remaining twenty-nine parts to have 110 yards to a piece. On some market days 500 pieces have been sold; by taking the average at 300, the annual number will be 7800 pieces. Formerly, when the market was lower, the average price of each piece was 4l.; it gradually rose to 5l. then to 6l. and upwards. Of late the different quantities and qualities of the 7800 pieces, supposed to be annually sold may have been, as nearly as can be estimated, in the following proportions:

$\frac{3}{60}$ or 260 pieces of 132 yards each, at the average price of 2s. 9d. per yard	L. 4719	0	0
$\frac{11}{60}$ or 1950 pieces of 110 yards, at 2s.	21450	0	0
$\frac{46}{60}$ or 5590 pieces of 110 yards, at 1s. 3d.	38431	0	0
7800	L. 64,600	0	0

Wool in the 260 pieces 34lbs in each at 2s. per lb.	884	0	0
Ditto 1950 ditto 36lbs at 1s. 6d.	5265	0	0
Ditto 5590 ditto 42lbs at 1s.	11,739	0	0
Oil to the manufacture of 7800 pieces at 3s. each	1170	0	0
Soap 8d.	260	0	0
Fullers earth 3s. to every 23 pieces	50	17	4
	L. 19,368	17	4

By this statement it appears, that 19,368l. 17s. 4d. is the fair value of the unmanufactured wool, and other articles; and the remaining sum of 45,231l. 7s. 8d. *ought* to be the annual wages of labour; but unfortunately the drapers reduce this annual profit of industry to 39,358l. 12s. 8d. by a custom of exacting a drawback of ten per cent upon the total amount:

that is, in a piece of 132 yards they pay but for 120; and a piece of 100 yards, they account only for a hundred."*

MONTGOMERY.

It has already been remarked, that this town, which gives name to the county, was originally called Tre Faldwyn, or Baldwyn's Town, from Baldwyn a lieutenant of the Marches in the time of William the conqueror; who, at the command of the sovereign, erected here a fortress to further his future designs against the Welsh. This appears to be the earliest intimation in history, respecting the place. It must soon after have fallen into the hands of the Welsh; for Roger Montgomery, who had for his services been created by William, earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, with the grant of a carte blanche for conquests, west of the Severn, having entered Powysland with an hostile army, took the castle and town of Baldwyn, refortified it in his own right, and gave it the new appellation of Montgomery, after his own name. The following year the Welsh mustering all their strength, took the castle by a coup de main, ransacked the town, and desolated the adjacent country.† The castle was again repaired, and strengthened by William Rufus, who, hearing, while in Normandy, of the cruel outrages and depredations, committed by the forces under the command of Gryffydd ap Conan and the sons of Bleddin ap Cynvyn, was inflamed with sanguinary resentment: and collecting a large army, marched at the head of them to the confines of Wales. The Welsh repulsed with irresistible vigour his repeated attacks, and the Normans having suffered prodigiously in various rencontres, losing great numbers, both of men and horses, the king thought it prudent, after having thrown in supplies for the garrison of Montgomery castle, to return to England, for the purpose of reinforcing his mutilated army. Flushed with their recent successes, the Welsh princes,

* Davies's Agriculture of North Wales, p. 392.

† Leland's Collectanea, Vol. II, p. 314.

ces, on the forced retreat of the English, boldly laid siege to the castle, then considered the strongest and best fortified of any on the borders. It was nobly defended against the fury of the assailants, but they having contrived means to undermine the walls, made several breaches, and quickly took it by storm; and giving no quarter to the garrison, they levelled the fortress with the ground. After a dreadful struggle for four years, in which fell numbers of the nobility, the Normans at length prevailed against this hardy race; and having obtained a decisive victory, drove the Welsh to their fastnesses among the hills. On that occasion the castle was immediately rebuilt by the earl of Shrewsbury: but in little more than a century afterwards it was again destroyed.

On Llewelyn having refused various summonses to appear before Henry the third, to answer for the violation of a treaty he had signed; the King marched with a powerful army to chastise his insolence; and on his return towards the Marches, after a victorious campaign, to restrain the predatory excursions of the Welsh in this quarter, he rebuilt the castle of Montgomery; which had been previously razed, on a site, and in such a manner, as to be deemed impregnable. The custody of it Henry gave to his great justiciary, Hubert de Burgh, with an annual salary of two hundred marks; and a larger allowance during the time of war. While in possession of Hubert it was regularly besieged by the Welsh; but an English army coming to its relief they were compelled to raise the siege, and for a time confine their views to desultory warfare. In one of their excursive expeditions numbers of the Welsh were taken by the English, and barbarously beheaded. To retaliate so foul an injury, Llewelyn ap Jorwerth assembled numerous forces, and encamping near Montgomery castle, so intimidated the governor that he privately withdrew: when the Prince having made himself master of the place, put the garrison to the sword, and burnt the fortress.*

After

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 251.

After long, but undecisive contests a conference was held at Montgomery castle, in the year 1268, and a peace concluded between Llewelyn ap Gryffydd and king Henry, through the interposition and mediation of Ottoboni, pope Clement's legate in England.

This treaty was signed and ratified by Henry and Llewelyn in person, and at the same time received from the hands of the legate the sanction of the Pope's authority. By virtue of this, the lands taken on both sides were to be restored, and the latter to do homage and fealty to the former for the Principality, as other princes had previously done; and to pay into the English treasury twenty five thousand marks.*

By an inquisition, made on the reversal of the attainder of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, in the year 1345, the castle appears to have been in the p ossession of that nobleman at the time of his decease A. D. 1354; and also the hundred of Chirbury, which at that period was reputed to comprise the castle and manor of Montgomery. In consequence of the attainder being removed, this, with his other property, was restored to the family; and passed into the royal house of York by the marriage of Anne, sister and sole heiress of the last earl, whence it came into possession of the Crown.

From this period a long interval elapses in silence, respecting this fortress. It seems to have been held, as stewards of the crown by the immediate ancestors of lord Herbert of Chirbury; and was the principal residence of the family.†

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the first, it was garrisoned for the royal cause by lord Herbert, who had been previously appointed governor by the king; but on the approach of the rebel army he declared himself ready to espouse the opposite side of the question; and by a treaty

* Henry de Knyghton de Event. Angl. Rymer Fœdera, p. 843. Mathew Paris states 32,000l. "Triginta duo millia librarum sterlinggorum regi concessit," p. 857.

† Life of lord Herbert, p. 5.

a treaty with sir Thomas Myddleton, the parliamentarian general, the troops were permitted to enter the castle, and turn out the royal garrison. A blot this, in the escutcheon of commandant, which time will never be able to efface. A short time after this disgraceful transaction, the royal forces under the command of lord Byron, about four thousand strong, approached Montgomery; and obliged the army under sir Thomas Myddleton to make a precipitate retreat to Oswestry, leaving lord Herbert with a handful of men; and but ill supplied, either with ammunition, or provisions, to defend the castle. It was consequently besieged by the royalists: in the mean while sir Thomas Myddleton's army having been reinforced by troops, brought up by sir William Brereton, sir John Meldrum, and sir William Fairfax, made a countermarch to the relief of the place. A general battle now became inevitable. The odds in point of numbers was very great: the royal army consisting of five thousand, and that of the Parliament not more than three. The former descending from the heights on which they had been previously posted, commenced the attack; and, at first, gained considerable advantage; but the latter, actuated by despair, and stimulated by the urgent necessity of throwing succours into such an important post, rallied, and making most vigorous efforts, turned the fortune of the day. After a dreadful sanguinary conflict the Parliamentarian army obtained a most complete and decisive victory. The routed troops fled on all sides, and the main body were pursued in a direction towards Shrewsbury. More than five hundred were slain, and fourteen hundred taken prisoners; while the loss on the side of the victors was about sixty killed, and one hundred wounded.* The castle subsequently met with a similar fate to most others, that had been defended for the King, being dismantled by order of the House of Commons: but lord Herbert appears to have received a compensation for the injury his pro-

* Drake's Parliamentary History, Vol. XIII. p. 285. Whitelock 104.

perty had sustained on this occasion.* The castle stood on the extremity of an eminence on the north side of the town, apparently impending over it; the projecting ridge being of great height, very steep, and towards the end quite precipitous. It is said once to have been a grand majestic building, but at present it is so far demolished, that it is difficult to ascertain the original shape or extent with any degree of accuracy. The present remains consist of a fragment of a tower at the south-west angle, with a few low and shattered walls. The fortress had been further defended by four deep fosses, cut out of the solid rock, over which it is probable drawbridges had been thrown for security. Not far from the castle, situated on a hill, is a stupendous fortified camp, which from the appearances was evidently an ancient British post. Several deep fosses run directly across the most accessible part of the hill, and the other is, naturally, sufficiently defended by the sharp escarpment approximating to a perpendicular; and the approach was guarded by four shorter fosses with two entrances to the main work. At the bottom of the hill is a smaller fortification, having in one part a raised artificial mount. This was probably the site of the castle originally erected by Baldwyn, partaking of the Norman manner in its design and shape.

The town was once defended by a circumambient wall, flanked with round and square towers; and the entrances defended by four gates. A grant was made by Edward the first to Bogo de Knouill, constable of the castle, permitting him to sell certain wood out of his forest of Corndon, to defray the expence of repairing the walls and fossa round the town and castle. Another, for a similar purpose, was issued by Edward the third, allowing a toll to be taken for seven years, on certain articles, exposed in the market for sale, among which are enumerated *squirrel skins*. Leland thus describes their state in the sixteenth century: "The soil of the ground of the towne is on mayne slaty rocke, and especially the parte of the town

* Life of lord Herbert.

town hillings toward the castell, now a late re-edified, whereby hathe been a parke. Great ruines of the waulle yet apere and the remains of four gates thus called, Kedewen gate, Chirbury gate, Arthur's gate, and Kerry gate. In the waulle yet remayne broken tourets, of which the white tower is the most notable."* Few traces of these are now left.

Montgomery was erected into a free borough by king Henry the third, who annexed to the grant various privileges and immunities. By this charter, the town is governed by two bailiffs and twelve capital burgesses, or common council men. From the time of Henry the eighth it has had the honour of sending one representative to Parliament, who is elected by the burgesses, in number about eighty, and returned by the bailiffs. Llanydloes, Welsh Pool, and Llanfyllin, formerly ranked as contributory boroughs; but for some time past, have been excluded from any share in the election.

The present town is a small, but neat place, built partly on the slope, and partly on the summit of a hill, beneath the impending shade of one of much greater elevation.

The *church*, an elegant cruciform structure, dedicated to St. Nicholas, contains an ancient monument erected to the memory of *Richard Herbert, esq.* father of the celebrated lord Herbert of Chirbury, and Magdalene his wife. Two recumbent figures are placed on an altar tomb, under a magnificent canopy, once apparently richly ornamented; and in front of the sarcophagus are effigies of their numerous progeny.

Near to the site of the castle stands the county *gaol* a strong stone building, erected a few years ago; and in the upper part is the *Guildhall*, a handsome edifice, where the sessions are held alternately with Pool.

The place in general is well built, the streets clean, and the whole assumes an air of peculiar and inviting neatness. By the returns made to Parliament the number of houses amounts to 161, and the population consists of 972; viz. 493 males and 499

* Itinerary, vol. VII. p. 16.

499 females. Having no trade, and not being a thoroughfare, are circumstances that may account for the diminutive size of Montgomery, though the county town. It is principally inhabited by persons of small independent fortunes, who settle here for the purpose of economy, and leading a life of retirement. And to such it cannot fail to be a favourite spot; for it seems capable of affording numerous comforts and conveniences, exclusive of the bustle and noise of larger towns: and what renders it still more inviting, the adjacent country is decorated with the most lively and luxuriant scenery. From the hill, is a fine, extensive and rich view of the vale of Montgomery, finely bounded in the expanse by the Salopian hills. The lovely prospect is thus glowingly depicted by an observant tourist: "It was on a fine serene morning in the beginning of September, that I happened to be at Montgomery; and I was so much delighted with the extensive and varied prospect from the castle; that I rested under the cool shade of one of its walls for near an hour, feasting my eyes with the lovely picture before me. The scene, which was calculated for almost Arcadian felicity, was enlivened by the busy work of harvest, and the merry carol of the reapers floated cheeringly through the air. The rustic swains and damsels were all assiduously employed in gathering the yellow riches of the summer. Some were cutting, others binding, and the gleaner

With bended shoulders traversing the field,

followed the loaded waggon, storing up with care every ear that fell.—I love to contemplate these rustic sights.

Hail, therefore, patroness of health and ease,
And contemplation heart-consoling joys,
And harmless pleasures in the throng'd
Abode of multitudes unknown! Hail rural life!
Address himself, who will to the pursuit
Of honours, or emoluments, or fame;
I shall not add myself to such a share,
Thwart his attempts or envy his success.*

Whether

* Bingley's North Wales, vol. II.

Whether in former times this place abounded more, than many others, with ladies of free lives, and unbecoming conversation, it would be difficult to ascertain; but at an early period the burgesses, among their other privileges numbered the right of the *Gogingstool*, Cokestool, or Cuckingstool.* This singular instrument of justice was an engine, invented for the punishment of scolds, strumpets, and other disorderly women, by ducking them in water, anciently called a tumbrel, tumbrellum, and sometimes a trebucket. It was used in the time of the Saxons, by whom it was denominated the *scealfing* stole or scolding stool, that is, a kind of chair, or seat, in which they placed brawling dames, or meretricious damsels, to make them public examples; and in cases of great enormity, they were plunged over head in water. By them it is described as, Cathedra in qua rixosæ mulieres sedentes, aquis demergebantur. And the reason assigned for such punishment was, Quia per objurgatrices et meretrices multa mala in villa oriuntur. Among the Normans it was denominated Cathedra stercoris, and was applied for the chastisement of brewers and bakers, who transgressed certain laws, relative to their respective trades; who for such malversation were adjudged to sit upon this stool, and be immersed over head and ears in *stinking* water. Blount† mentions this mode of inflicting punishment, as being in general use at Montgomery. Whenever any woman in the judgement of the free burgesses, belonging to the town, was found guilty of causing strifes, fightings, defamations, or other disturbances of the public peace, she was committed to the goging, or cucking stool, there to stand, or sit with her feet naked,

* Some writers suppose the name a corruption of ducking-stool; others conjecture it is derived from choaking stool, quia hoc modo demersæ aquis fore suffocantur. See Jacob's Law Dictionary. But may it not be derived from *gouke*, an old word for a cuckow, a bird universally considered the emblem of mockery, signifying, that the instrument was intended to exhibit the objects of it to ridicule and derision?

† Ancient Tenures and Jocular Customs.

naked, and her hair dishevelled, for such a length of time, judges should deem sufficient as a mark of infamy, and a public warning to all, who beheld her exposed condition.

It is probable, that when this was not found to answer the intended end, that recourse was had to the ancient method, and immersion, or ducking added, as an improvement upon simple exposure; with the view of preventing a repetition of the crime, if not effecting a radical cure in the offending culprit. The engine for this purpose, consisted of a long beam, or rafter, that moved on a fulcrum, and extended towards the centre of a river or pond; and to the end towards the water was affixed the stool, or chair, on which the offending party was made to sit. By the Welsh it was called Y gadair goch, or the red chair, and its use is alluded to in the following epigram:

"Ye vixen dames, your neighbour's pest,
Unless your tongues in future rest,
Know that with all your faults, your fate
Is the *red chair's* degrading seat."

About five miles from Montgomery is Long-mountain, called by the Welsh *Mynydd digoll*, on which was fought the last decisive battle for the independence of the Principality. On the death of Llewelyn the North Wales men set up Madoc, a cousin of the last reigning Prince, who assembled a large army, and fought several splendid battles, in which he was victorious, particularly on the Marches; but at length, overpowered by the superior numbers, collected by the Lords marchers; he here fell, after a well fought, and hard contested engagement. So that on this mountain may it be fairly said, expired the liberty of Wales.

Edward Herbert, who has been styled by one writer 'the celebrated flower of chivalry, in whom madness and ability kept equal pace', and by another, 'the historical, the philosophical, the right whimsical peer, first baron of Chirbury, a man at once and together, the negociator, the scholar, states-

man, soldier, the genius and absurdity of his time and nation." appears to have been a native of Montgomery. He was born in 1583, and for the first years of his life was exceedingly puny, and so backward in his speech, that strong apprehensions were entertained, he would remain dumb. In his life, written by himself, he observes, that he could understand what was said by others but that he forebore to speak, 'lest he should utter something improper'; and that one of the first questions he asked, was, 'How he came into the world.' Though it was not till he had attained the age of seven, that he was taught to read; yet such was the rapid progress he made in learning, that in the space of five years he acquired a considerable knowledge of Latin and Greek; and at an early period gained admission, as a student, into University college, Oxford; where by his exercises and logical disputations he obtained universal applause. To the dead, he also added the acquisition of several modern languages; and became an adept in music and medicine, in which latter science, he professed to have made some very valuable discoveries: and pretended to have cured many disorders, which baffled the skill of the most able physicians. After the accession of James the first he was created a knight of the Bath, and he solemnly declares, that he adhered strictly to his oath of knighthood, which required him never to permit injustice to be done; and in case of ladies, or gentlemen being wronged in their honour, if they demanded his assistance, that he should afford it without the least reserve, &c. From this part of his character it is, that, "in one point of view we observe him, like the knight of La Mancha, fighting with windmills, redressing the wrongs of distressed damsels, and risking his life, to wrest the top knot of a girl, but ten years of age, from the hands of a rude despoiler; whilst at other times we discern the same man devoted to a life of retirement, and with equal spirit cultivating philosophy, history, and poetry."[a] In the year 1608 he visited the

[a] Coxe's Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, p. 102.

the continent making what is usually denominated 'the grand tour of Europe;' and in those countries he performed many acts, according to his own statement, of extraordinary heroism. On his return, he was appointed ambassador to France; and in 1621 king James advanced him to the dignity of an Irish baron; and a few years subsequently he was created an English peer, by the style and title of lord Herbert of Chirbury in Shropshire. On the breaking out of the civil war he for a time espoused the royal cause; but from the imbecility and divisions in the King's councils; or the apprehension of losing his own property in the unequal contest, he went over to the popular side. He died in 1648, at the age of sixty-seven, and was interred in the chancel of St. Giles's in the fields; where the following inscription, drawn up by himself, is placed on a flat marble slab that covers his grave.

"Hic
inhumatur corpus Edwardi Herbert, equitis balnei, baronis de Chirbury et Castle island, auctoris libri, cui titulus est, De veritate. Reddor ut herba, viccimo die Augusti, anno Domini 1648.

The predominant features in the character of this extraordinary man appear to have been enthusiasm, and vanity, which so strongly tinctured all his actions, as to make them in many instances assume the air of insanity. As a soldier he won the esteem of the brave, as a knight his chivalry was copied from the Fairy Queen. In his own age lord Herbert was justly esteemed a prodigy of learning; but in his literary pursuits the same affectation and eccentricity are observable, which were distinguishable in all his other undertakings. He is said to have been the first author, who reduced *deism* into a regular system, in which he asserted, and endeavoured to prove, the sufficiency, universality, and absolute perfection, of natural religion; without the aid of supernatural, or extraordinary communication of the divine will.'* Yet the very man, who condemns,

* See an able refutation of the positions laid down in support of such a system in the works of Locke; and more particularly, in Leland's Deistical Writers.

condemns, and endeavours to explode all belief in revelation, as gross enthusiasm, was himself the greatest of all enthusiasts. For, when he had finished the work, on which he wished to rest his future fame, he hesitated about publishing it to the world, till, as he states, he was induced to do it *by a sign from Heaven!* This conduct is finely exposed by the late earl of Orford. "There is no stronger characteristic of human nature, than its being open to the strongest contradictions: one of lord Herbert's chief arguments against revealed religion is the improbability, that Heaven should reveal its will to only a portion of the earth, which he terms particular religion. How could a man, who doubted of partial, believe individual revelation? What vanity to think his book of such importance to the cause of truth, that it could extort a declaration of the divine will, which the interests of half mankind could not!*" He was the author of several works, viz. A life of Henry the eighth; Memoirs of his own life; a Treatise de Religione Gentilium, error umque apud eas Causis; and a work, which he flattered himself contained such intrinsic merit, and the sentiments to be of so much importance to mankind, that he inserted its title "De Veritate" in the epitaph he left in lieu of a memento mori.

Limore Park, a small distance from the town, is a seat belonging to the earl of Powys.

The road from Montgomery to Newtown lies through a fine cultivated country, abounding with delightful scenery. A small distance from Montgomery the land continues gradually to ascend, and by reversing the view, from the eminence, is obtained a prospect so extensive and beautiful, as to defy the powers of the pencil to express its features by delineation. A vale in the highest state of culture is seen to extend several miles, in which the Severn, peeping in differen parts from among the trees and meadows, assumes the appearance of so many small lakes; and the distant varied hills finely close the delightful

* Royal and Noble Authors.

And, as the old swain said, she can unlock
The clasping charm, and thaw the numbing spell,
If she be right invok'd in warbled song;
For maidenhood she loves, and will be swift
To aid a virgin, such as was herself,
In hard besetting need———————."

GRÉGYNNOG now the seat of *Charles Hanbury, esq.* a good old family mansion, though neither happy in point of situation, nor elegant in its appearance, will be notable as long as it stands, as having been the residence of uncommon hospitality, during the lifetime of its late owner, *Arthur Blayney, esq.* a gentleman, who though possessed of greater means, yet when the extent of his generous deeds are taken into the account, may justly be ranked with the 'man of Ross,' whose worth has been so pathetically described in the tuneful numbers of the bard of Twickenham. The first trait in his character was hospitality at home, nor could a house be found, where the visitor was more perfectly at ease, from the titled tourist to the poor benighted way-worn traveller, who knew not where to turn in, for refreshment, or repose. Patriotism seemed an innate principle, and the county in which he resided, he considered, as having a peculiar claim upon him; and no undertaking of acknowledged utility, but met with his countenance and support. The roads in particular, for many miles round, owe their making almost intirely to his liberality; and when his assistance was solicited for widening them, or rendering them more convenient, by cutting off angles, &c. he would give the lands necessary for the purpose, upon one condition only, 'that the applicants took sufficient.' It was only necessary to convince him of the advantage, likely to accrue from the execution of any plan, to be sure of his protection, and pecuniary assistance. Scarce a church in the neighbourhood, but what both in repairs, and ornaments, bears ample witness to his munificence. His tenants, from their relation to him as landlord, he reckoned as friends; and not only allowed them

to

to gain reasonable profits from their farms, but also encouraged them in every proper attempt at further improvement. In the houses and offices he studied for them convenience and pleasure; and so much did he perform in this way, that it is easy to trace his estates, which were very extensive, by the superior condition in which he left them. To his small tenants he was a most bountiful master, and their cottages he determined should be in a comfortable state. To each he allowed a little land, to support a cow or two, during summer, and found them hay gratis for their fodder in winter. To the poor he was a general benefactor; for his charity was as diffusive as it was liberal; but instead of bestowing it on the idle, vagrant, and clamorous mendicants, his chief aim and delight was to find deserving objects; and by a little timely assistance, to put them in the way, and enable them, by affording the means, to provide in future for themselves. Such was the late possessor of Gregynnog.

Richer than misers e'er their countless hoards,
Nobler than kings, or court-corrupted lords
Here dwelt the friend of man. O traveller hear,
Departed merit claims the reverend tear,
Friend to the friendless, to the sick man health,
With generous joy he viewed his modest wealth,
Bade it diffuse its influence around,
Wher'er the cramping hand of want was found,
With hearty welcome care-worn heart beguile.
Its cheering beams e'en made the cottage smile
He heard the widow's heaven-breathed prayer of praise,
And marked the sheltered orphan's tearful gaze,
Dragged latent grief into consoling light,
And banished pale-faced misery from his sight.
If blessed with plenty, thou hast wealth in store,
And heavenly bounty made thy cup run o'er,
Then early learn such gifts to duly prize,
Look to the exemplar, go, and do likewise.
But if, like me, through life's distressful scene,
Lonely and sad thy pilgrimage hath been;

And

And if thy breast with heart-sick anguish fraught,
Thou journeyest onward tempest-tost in thought,
Here cheat thy cares in generous visions melt,
And dream of goodness, thou hast never felt.

Aberfechan, a good old house near Dolforwyn, was formerly a residence of the Lloyd family; but by virtue of marriage with the heiress of Richard Lloyd Esq., it is now in possession of *sir Gervase Clifton, bart.*

NEWTON,

Or, as it is called in Welsh *Trenewydd*, is a neat clean place; but the buildings being what are usually denominated half timbered, gives it to strangers, rather an appearance of meanness. There are however in the town and contiguous, many good houses not built after the Welsh fashion; and as a place of residence it seems a desirable spot. The *church*, the principal public building, is an ancient structure, though not remarkable as an architectural object. An elegant screen, that separates the chancel from the nave, is decorated with various devices; but its beauty is defaced by being bedizened with gilded ornaments. Over the communion table is a small altar-piece containing a picture, said to have been painted by Dyer, the poet. The antique font and the screen are reported to have been brought from the abbey of Cwmhir in Radnorshire.

Several woollen manufactures are carried on in the town and its vicinity, principally flannels of all degrees of fineness; and numerous persons are employed in the various requisite processes. But the number of these has been greatly reduced of late, by the introduction of machinery. The carding and spinning, that used to employ the women and children, is now no longer done by hand: a circumstance, which though highly beneficial to the master tradesmen, has tended greatly to increase the number of paupers; and brought additional burthens upon this and the surrounding parishes.

NEWTOWN HALL, the seat of *sir John Pryse*, stands in a fine park, that extends almost up to the town. The family derive their descent from Elystan Glodrydd, one of the five royal tribes; and they became possessed of this place about the time of Henry the sixth. The late owner, sir John Pryse, though usually considered a good kind of gentleman, was a very excentric character. He married three wives. The first two he kept after their demise in an embalmed state, placing them in his chamber, one on each side his bed. The third, however, with a highly becoming spirit, refused the knight the honour of her hand, till he had removed the defunct rivals, and committed them to the proper place of interment. About the time of the latter's death, a person by the name of *Bridget Bostock* of Cheshire, became notorious, by the pretended miraculous powers she possessed, and the surprising cures she is said to have performed; healing all manner of diseases by means of faith, prayer, and an embrocation of fasting spittle, applied to the impotent, or disordered subject. However absurd, or impudent the pretensions of such impostors may be, there are never wanting those, who will second the arrogant claim; and whose credulity seems to run parallel with the blasphemous presumption. She was followed by multitudes, and her salival glands were kept in full employ by the numbers who resorted to her for supernatural relief. Among the applicants was sir John, who, with a high spirit of enthusiasm, wrote to this wonder-working dame, requesting the favour, that she would condescend to pay him a visit at Newtown Hall, for the purpose of exerting her extraordinary endowments in the *restoration to life*, of his third and favourite wife. The letter will best explain the reason of this singular request and the foundation on which he built such a fantastical, and fallacious hope. Like the hero in the Æneid, his mind appears to have dwelt so much upon the beloved object, that it produced such a strong desire, as placed the mind in a state of reverie; so that the interruption, or partition between this and a future world apparently no longer subsisted.

" Euridice oro properata retexite fila."

Purport of Sir John Pryce's Letter to Mrs. Bridget Bostock, 1748.

"MADAM,

HAVING received information by repeated advices, both public and private, that you have of late performed many wonderful cures, even where the best physicians have failed; and that the means used, appear to be very inadequate to the effects produced; I cannot but look upon you as an extraordinary and highly-favoured person. And why may not the same most merciful God, who enables you to restore sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and strength to the lame, also enable you to raise the dead to life? Now, having lately lost a wife, whom I most tenderly loved, my children a most excellent step-mother, and our acquaintances a very dear and valuable friend, you will lay us all under the highest obligations: and I earnestly entreat you, for God Almighty's sake, that you will put up your petitions to the Throne of Grace on our behalf, that the deceased may be restored to us, and the late dame Eleanor Pryce be raised from the dead.—If your personal attendance appears to you to be necessary, I will send my coach and six, with proper servants, to wait on you hither, whenever you please to appoint.—Recompence of any kind, that you could propose, would be made with the utmost gratitude; but I wish the bare mention of it is not offensive to both God and you.

"I am, Madam,
"Your most obedient, and very
"much afflicted humble servant,
"JOHN PRYCE."

Caer-sws, about five miles west of Newtown, a place of great antiquity, is supposed to have been a Roman station; though not enumerated in any of the Itineraries. At present it is a small village, or rather hamlet, containing a few houses, on the banks of the Severn. There are, however, evident traces of its having been formerly of far greater extent; for the adjacent fields

fields are still divided by lanes, intersecting each other at right angles, pointing out the sites of the ancient streets; and on the north and west sides yet remain hollows, which appear to have been part of the fossa, once surrounding the precincts of the place. Few coins have ever been found here; but hewn stones for building, and bricks, such as were commonly used in Roman cities, have been frequently discovered.

Two encampments are in the immediate vicinity; the one is a small suboval fortified post by the side of the road, called *Gwynfynydd*. At a small distance from the river, in a field adjacent to the common, of Rhos Ddiarbed, or the marsh where no quarter was given, is a large camp of a peculiar form and singularly fortified. On the south side is a vast mount of a conical shape, surrounded by a prodigious wide foss, which apparently was the site of an exploratory tower. At the northern extremity of the foss is an oblong area of various width, its greatest diameter being about seventy yards. This is defended on all sides by a lofty vallum, and deep foss. In the lower part is a porta, or entrance way, that opens into a large rectangular camp, about two hundred yards long, and more than one hundred broad. At the other extremity, in an opposite direction, is another porta, and the whole encompassed with a foss and vallum. A few years since was dug up in the south-west angle of this encampment, Roman bricks, cemented with mortar, which were used for building the chimney of a neighbouring house. One among the number was an inscribed brick, having, in alto-relievo, the letters,

C. I. C. I. P. B.

which some antiquaries have decyphered thus, *Caius Julius Cæsar imperator*. But this is an imperfect interpretation, because the letters P and B, are left unaccounted for. The former might signify propætor, and the latter allude to the officer's name.

By the side of Gwynfynnydd is easily traceable the Roman road, called *Sarn Swsan*. It runs in a direction from Caer Sws to Meifod; and its vestiges are visibly distinct as far as

banks of the Vyrnwy, near Llyssin. This road the late Dr. Worthington followed, to *Street fawr* near Coed y Clawdd, in the parish of Rhaiader yn Mochnant: from thence, crossing Rhos y Brith dir to Pen y Street, it passed through Lam-jwrch to Caer fach, supposed to have been a small Roman camp, and from the tendency of the line, the termination was at Chester.

The country beyond Caer-sws is literally a land of sheep-walks, the hills being left in an uncultivated, unincloced state: and the flocks, like the migratory sheep of Spain, are driven to them from distant parts, to depasture the summer herbage. The farms, which are generally situated in the vallies, being a kind of appendages to the mountain pastures, serving as winter habitations, and depots for provisions and fodder.

In this hilly district are the mountains of *Carno*, celebrated, like those of Gilboa, on account of the fall of the mighty. For the most sanguinary battle recorded in the Welsh Annals was here fought, A. D. 1077, between the forces under Gryffydd ap Cynan, the legal heir to the throne of North Wales; joined by those of Rhys ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales; and the powerful army assembled by Trahaern ap Caradoc, the reigning monarch. The engagement was hot, being fiercely contested, and every inch of ground disputed with that valour and obstinacy, natural to rivals, who had every thing to hope, and every thing to fear. After a most bloody conflict, victory declared in favour of the former. Trahaern was slain, and his army being completely defeated, Gffrydd ap Cynan, was put in possession of the crown and sceptre, worn by his ancestors.*

On the summit of a high mountain, opposite to the village of LLANDINAM is a British post, called *y Gaer Fechan*, or the small fortress, encompassed, or defended by a number of fossa, from one to five, according as the strength or weakness of the parts apparently required. A small lake in this vicinity, still retains

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales, p. 108.

retains the appellation of *Llyn yr Afange*, or the Beavers pool, from having been in former times the haunt of those animals. For it appears evident, though the race is now extinct in Britain, that anciently these animals abounded in the remote parts of this Island. The beaver anciently received the appellation of *Llos-Lydan*, or the broad-tailed animal: and though this may be applicable to the Otter, still a resident of these parts, frequenting the numerous lakes and streams; yet Giraldus affirms the beaver was found in his time; and describes in detail the characteristics of the animal in question. The skin was in such esteem in ancient times, that it was considered one of the chief articles of finery, and constituted one of the principal luxuries of dress, in the days of Hywel Dda. In the juridical code drawn up under the sanction of that Prince, the value of a Beaver-skin was valued at one hundred and twenty-pence, while that of a Martin was twenty-four; and an otter, ermine, wolf, or fox only reckoned adequate to twelve.

The road from Llanddinam to the southward winds most romantically through a narrow vale, which, as it converges, is bounded by lofty hills, whose bases and sides are in a variety of places finely skirted with hanging woods; of which those of Berth Lwyd are the most considerable; and form a beautiful back ground to the remains of an ancient mansion, for centuries the residence of the Llwyds, collateral descendants from Tudor Trevor. The valley is highly cultivated and the river, here but a few yards across, glides smoothly, and silently along between its sedgy banks, reflecting brightly the green impending foliage of its woodfringed margin.

"Fields, lawns, hills, vallies, pastures, all appear
Clad in the varied beauties of the year,
Meandering waters, waving woods are seen,
And cattle scattered in each distant green,
The curling smoke, from cottages ascends,
There towers the hill, and there the valley bends."

LLANYDLOES.

* Leges Wallicæ, 260, 261.

LLANYDLOES.

The entrance into this town over a long wooden bridge, erected in 1741, that crosses the Severn, is by no means calculated, to prepossess the traveller in favour of the place. The streets, forming right angles, would favour the idea of a Roman origin; but no other indications have ever been noticed, to corroborate the conjecture. The situation is pleasant, and the different areas spacious; yet having very few good houses, and the greater number being built of timber frames, and the intermediate spaces formed with what is technically denominated, *wattle* and *dab*, that is, laths, or sticks, intertwined, and the interstices filled up with mud; add, together with the irregularity of their position, to give an awkwardness to its appearance, not very inviting to the passing visitant. The width of the streets also, which in most other places is deemed a great advantage, here becomes an abominable nuisance; from the custom the inhabitants have of accumulating their ashes, &c. in large heaps before their respective doors; the exhalations from which in hot weather must be very offensive to persons, accustomed to the cleanliness of places, where the name and duty of a *scavenger* are well understood.

The *church*, dedicated to St. Idlos, or Ydlos, is noted for its roof or cieling, consisting of curiously carved oak. The nave is separated from the aile by circular columns, surrounded by round pillars ending in capitals of palm leaves, which support six pointed arches. The upper parts are decorated with angelic, or cherubic figures, each of which exhibits a shield, charged with different coats of arms. These ornamental parts, according to the tradition of the neighbourhood, were brought from the abbey of Cwmhir in Radnorshire: and the date on the roof, 1542, nearly corresponds with the period of monastic dissolution. The *Market-house* standing in the centre of the town, is a mean, low building, constructed of the same ma-

terials and in a similar manner to most of the dwelling houses. In this a weekly market is held every Saturday. The number of houses is 498; and of inhabitants 2282. These are chiefly employed in agriculture, or in manufacturing flannel; a considerable trade in that article being carried on here and in the adjacent country. Lately several factories, furnished with machinery for carding, and spinning the wool, have been erected in the vicinity. A very large concern, called the Alba Mill, belongs to Messrs. Herbert and Britton, who send most of their goods to the London market. The effects produced on the general inhabitants of any district, by the diminishing manual labour, is in few more apparent than in this. The poor rates are twenty-eight times more than they were in the year 1744. From 1799 to 1801, a space of two years, the increase was from 817l. 9s. 4d, to 1634l. 18s. 9d!! "The number of heads of families, and single persons, receiving weekly pay, is 265, exclusive of 10 or 12 families, who have occasional relief. By averaging only three persons to a family, it appears, that 828 persons are supported by the remaining 1454."*

A coarse slate abounds in the neighbouring hills, and a good building stone, composed of schistus, that appears to be trapping into hornblende; notwithstanding which, in many parts of the country, the ancient covering for roofs is still pertinaciously adopted, viz. shingles, or heart of oak split, and cut into the form of slates. The custom is said to have been introduced by the Saxons, and the name is evidently derived from the language of that people; *schindel* signifying the same thing. From this place the route to the pride, and boast of the county, is generally made; the traveller resting here, previous to engaging in this arduous undertaking. The following description from a manuscript account of two gentlemen, who lately visited this part of the Principality, after scientific

* Davies's Agric. of North Wales, p. 429.

scientific pursuits, must be gratifying to those who may feel inclined to visit

"Plynlimmonis ardua moles."

or the vast mountain of *Plynlimmon*.

"The weather was exceedingly fine, and the rivers, from long previous drought, being scant of water, we took our direction for Plynlimmon, up the Severn, observing as we proceeded the various fossil substances, which, washed from the hills by mountain torrents were strewed over the rocky bed of the river, till we arrived at Melin Velindre: at which place is a small cataract, not a little romantic, from the curvature of the stream and surrounding scenery. About six miles up, at Gafron, is an old copper-work. We now ascended Glyn Hafren, which is a well cultivated farm. We again descended into a boggy vale by a very difficult road, running in a winding manner, along the precipitous side of the hill. Pursuing our course, directed by the stream, along the morassy banks, having the Biga mountains on our right, and those, which separate the vale of the Severn from the vale of the Wye, on our left, we met with little interesting, save the small river *Se*, coming from the south-west, and forming here a junction with the Hafren. Soon, however, the object of our excursion rose in lofty, but sullen grandeur before us. The vale, diverging to the north, and south, developed the mountain, which appeared with less abruptness and elevation, than, from prior information we had reason to expect. Its sides and summit, as well as the adjacent hills, were totally devoid of wood, a nudity, that invariably gives mountainous scenery a forbidding aspect. We persevered in our dreary route till we reached Blaen Hafren, a farm-house, if such it can be called, occupied by a Mr. Edward Rowlands; who has no inclosed land, but pays an acknowledgment of ten pounds per annum, the rent of the range of the mountainous pasture, for his sheep. These, apparently a peculiar race, are horned, slim in the carcase, small handsome faces, and remarkable for the comparative size of their tails; which are here suffered to grow, till the animals

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are slaughtered. They breed and winter on the mountains, are never housed, and seldom allowed the smallest quantity of fodder; their size is consequently diminutive, and the wool coarse.

Near this house the last for some miles in extent, the Severn rolls its waters over a lofty ledge of slate rock, in which it has formed a series of fanciful-shaped gullies. One in particular is of a globular concave shape, as accurate as if performed by art, several feet wide, and of considerable depth. It was now full of clear water, the river becoming a small stream; but in the Winter months, we were informed, the quantity of water is immense; and the fall remarkably fine. The district, destitute of population, and unenlivened by the cheering views, arising from cultivation, assumed an air of dreariness, scarcely to be conceived; which, whatever may be the cause in the wild waste, quickly affected our spirits, and our minds soon became in unison with the sombre aspect of the country. We continued to follow the stream, which now came in a serpentine course from the westward, rolling through a chasm, formed through schistose rock, in some places shallow, and in others very deep. At length this noble river, which, before its conflux with the ocean, carries ships on its bosom for a number of leagues, dwindles into a mere ditch, running through marshy land; out of which, on each side, burst up numerous springs, that flow over the surface of the soil, in general covered with carnation grass. A small distance from this spot, is the head, or chief fountain, on the north side of the mountain, which issues forth a strong chalybeate water, leaving a deposit of several inches, consisting of pure ochre of a very fine orange colour. The chasm continues some yards above the spring, and exhibits on its sides peat-earth, several feet deep, resting on a deep bed of white marl, and just above, over a ledge of rocks, at times, flows water from another spring, which was at this time, September the third, perfectly dry. In the vicinity we found, several plants, that generally have their habitats in mountainous marshes, viz, *Vitis, idæa, Butomus umbellatus,*

Carex

Carex pauciflora, *Schœnus nigricans*, *Scirpus lacustris*, *Scirpus palustris*, and *Eriophorum polystachion*. The latter the country people use for making candles, which they perform by taking off all the bark, but one narrow strip, and dipping them in kitchen grease. These, denominated *Canwyll frwyn*, they carry in their hands, or place in a sort of candlestick, adapted for the purpose, terminating at the upper-end, like a pair of pinchers. As we approached the top of the mountain, the surface exhibited patches of coarse grass, intermixed with heaps of loose stones, and fragments of rock, lying about in all directions: among which are quantities of mixed and very pure quartz. Amidst these blocks of quartz are numerous hillocks of peat earth, so light as to be driven about by the wind, like sand-hills near the sea coast. The summit may be called bifurcate, consisting of two small heads; and on the summit of each is a carnedd, or large heap of stones. The one, on the highest peak is of a pyramidal shape, and was originally perhaps used, as a military beacon. A custom considered sacred by the Welsh, is, that of persons who ascend thus far, placing on the heap, each one, or more stones, which they call Cornu y Plynlimmon. Numerous birds frequent the mountain, ravens, cranes, herons, snipes, both the lesser and greater, with flocks of plovers. The wily fox also here finds a harbour for the purpose of committing his depredations upon the defenceless sheep. A grand phenomenon presented itself to view, while we took our repast on the summit. The weather had been rather dull, as we made the ascent, but suddenly the wind shifted, pouring rains descended below, darksome clouds drove round the mountain; enveloping the whole surrounding country in one complete state of impenetrable mist. While with us it was perfectly dry, and over our heads was shining a most brilliant sun. We began to despair now of obtaining what, we had been assured was a most delightful prospect. But as suddenly as the clouds were collected, they were, after a short time, dispersed; when a most majestic panoramic view burst at once on the astonished sight. To the south the hills of Cardiganshire appeared beneath

neath, like so many hillocks, expanding for a great extent, in various directions; Cardigan bay with St. George's channel, finely appeared to the west; to the north, Cader Idris, and part of the Snowdonian chain, that parts Merioneth from Caernarvonshire; to the north-east the Breiddin hills; and to the east, parts of the counties of Hereford and Salop. It is remarkable, that this mountain, which Mr. Pennant was deterred from visiting, by having been informed, that it lay in a dreary uninhabited district, and altogether an uninteresting object, should give birth to four very considerable rivers; two of which stand unrivalled in point of picturesque beauty; and the third, after father Thames, in commercial importance; viz. the Llyfnant, Rheidiol, Wye, and Severn. The first issues from Glas llyn; the second from Llyn Llygad Rheidiol; and taking a south-westerly direction falls into the sea, near Aberystwith; the third flows from two powerful springs on the south-eastern side, and after watering the counties of Radnor, Brecon, and Monmouth, joins below Chepstow, the Severn whose course has been previously described. Descending by a different path the rugged and boggy sides of the mountain, we returned to Blaen hafren, and were glad to partake of additional refreshment. After passing a rivulet, called Hore, running to the southward of Hafren, in a south-easterly direction, we passed the Biga Mountains, at Cwm Biga, and passing Llwyn y Gog, crossed the river Clewedog, at New mill; and obtained the turnpike road, from Llanydloes to Machynlleth, at the eleventh mile stone.

The night was exceedingly dark, and the rain came down in torrents, the horses were jaded, and our own spirits exhausted, when we arrived at Rhyd porthmaen, a miserable hovel, ycleped a public house. Twice did we enter this dwelling of wretchedness, and disgusted with the toute ensemble, determined to proceed with the view of reaching Machynleth, nine miles further: but the consideration of the state of our beasts, and the arduous journey they had yet to perform, induced us to relinquish the design, and put up with the inconveniences, and suffer the privations, which we had painfully foreseen,

foreseen, though unable to prevent, and now were more painfully compelled to experience.

Early in the morning, finding the surrounding country was a mineral tract, we proceeded to explore its subterraneous treasures. Several lead mines have been worked, and others were now working in the vicinity. *Talleſi* mine, the property of sir Watkin Williams Wynne, lying on the south-side of the small river, Twymmin, contains rich veins of ore, and was long successfully worked; but the water increasing the concern was abandoned, for want of sufficient spirit in the lessees to incur the expence, necessary for draining the work. Though it appears an attempt was made for the purpose, as there yet remains a part of a noble level, driven under the hill in a southerly direction. *Isgar Gallad* mines, on the opposite side belonging to Mr. Salter of Machynleth, were in full work. The shafts are fifteen yards in depth, and a level about fifty yards in length, drove from south to north, takes off the superfluous waters. The ore obtained from these mines is chiefly that called steel-grained, very little of the cubic, or potter's ore, being found. The ore contains a sufficient portion of silver, to answer the purpose of assaying. The matrix is quartz, or hard compact shale, mixed with quartzose spar. The dip of the veins forms about sixty degrees with the horizon, in an uniform direction, from west to east; or at least never verging more than four points from that bearing. The steel-grained ore, sells from fourteen to sixteen pounds per ton; and potter's ore, from eighteen to twenty.

Dymfyngum, or as it is vulgarly called, Dyngum mine, belonging to a Mr. Griffith Jones, is nearly worked out, as it is termed; but the fact appears from the nature of the strata, that the veins have been pursued in a wrong bearing. Nine shafts, about fourteen yards deep, have been sunk, and a level drove five hundred yards in length from the river. This at present is a sinking speculation.

Besides lead, ores of zinc are found, particularly the species, denominated black Jack, which is not, as formerly, thrown

away

away as refuse, or used for repairing roads; but carried to to Machynlleth, and sold for thirty shillings per ton. The Twynning takes its rise in the small lake of Glas Llyn, and after passing these mines, running in a line easterly, joins the Bran to the east of Mallwyd. Before it arrives at Istrad Gallad, it rolls its waters with great precipitation over several rocky ledges, so as to form together a very pleasing fall of about fifty feet.

MACHYNLLETH.

At the conflux of the Dulas with the Dovey, stands Machynlleth, a neat regular well built town, and preferable in appearance to most in North Wales. It has apparently a claim to high antiquity, for it is generally supposed to have been a Roman station, the *Maglona* of the Itinerary. Near Penalt, about two miles distant, is a place, denominated *Cefn Caer*, or the ridge of the city, where Roman coins have frequently been found, and formerly were visible the remains of a circular fortification of considerable extent. But upon the highest part of the hill was the main fort, built in a quadrangular form, and encompassed with a strong wall, accompanied by a foss and vallum, of an oval shape, excepting the side towards the valley, where they were continued in a strait line. The outer walls were built of a rough durable stone dug at Tal y garreg, near seven miles distant. From the site of this fort a road twelve yards wide, formed of pebbles and larger stones, extended in a direct line through the marshy meadows, for two hundred yards, to the water-side. Beyond the river the foundations of many houses are yet discoverable; and upon a low mount stood a small fort, supposed to have been erected with such bricks, as have been frequently found on the spot; and specimens of which may be found intermixed with the stone in the walls of Penalt church. Near the main fort silver coins of Augustus and Tiberius, have been dug up; yet

the station appears to have been principally occupied by troops, under the command of a Lieutenant, in the time of the emperor Honorius.

The *church* is not remarkable, but for an absurd custom, too prevalent through the country, that of white-washing the outside.

The *Town hall* is a plain unadorned, good structure.

The ancient *senate house*, now degraded, by being converted into a stable, adjoining a butcher's shop, has a spacious entrance door-way, that evinces its occupancy, at some former period, had been more honourable. Here in 1403, when the rebel chieftain, Owen Glyndwr, from repeated successes was in the meridian of his glory, assembled the estates of Wales, and held a Parliament; by which his title to the Principality was solemnly acknowledged, and he formally underwent the ceremony of coronation. On this occasion the new Sovereign narrowly escaped assassination. Dafydd Gam, so called from having but one eye, a man whom Mr. Carte describes, as holding his estate of the honour of Hereford, who had been long in the service of Bolingbroke, and firmly attached to his interest. Notwithstanding he was allied by affinity to Glyndwr, having married his sister, yet so much did he detest his cause, and such a furious hatred had he conceived for his person; that he appeared in the assembly, as an abettor of the purpose for which the meeting was called; but with the secret intention, and treacherous resolution of murdering his brother-in-law, and Prince. The plot was, however, timely discovered. Dafydd was seized and imprisoned, and would have instantly met with condign punishment, had it not been for the intercession of Owen's best friends, and warmest partizans. He received a pardon, on his giving solemn assurances, that he would adhere to the cause of Glyndwr, and aid in securing the independence of his country. He most probably, conceiving that extorted concessions were not binding, quickly acted contrary to his promise; for which Glyndwr, in resentment, burnt his house, and kept him in close confinement at Machynlleth till

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the year 1412. Party zeal, or hopes of reward from the English court, probably incited him to attempt the nefarious deed. Carte says* he was instigated by Henry, which appears very likely: for after repeated efforts made to obtain his liberty, the King was under the necessity of issuing a writ, permitting his esquire, Llewelyn ap Hoel, father of Dafydd Gam, to make use of the services of sir John Tiptofte, and William Boteler, to treat with Owen about the redemption of his son from captivity; who is described as kept forti and duri prisonâ; or in case of failure, to endeavour to seize some of Glyndwr's friends that might be exchanged for Gam. And it is rather singular, that the watchful eye of these government agents should have passed over two Welshmen of rank, whom they had in their power, the same year; and might have made them the ransom of their coadjutor. These were Rhys ap Tudor, and his brother, both lords of Penmynydd in Anglesea.

On the suppression of the rebellion under Glyndwr, Dafydd obtained his liberty, and was cordially received at the court of Henry the fifth. On the war breaking out between England and France, he received a commission, and was in high favour with his royal master. Previous to the notable battle of Agincourt, he was sent on a reconnoitring party, to explore the ground, and ascertain the number of the enemy's forces. On his return he informed the monarch, 'there were enough to kill, enough to be made prisoners, and enough to run away.' In that engagement the King was nearly taken, being surrounded by the enemy; but was rescued by the personal prowess of Dafydd, his son-in-law Roger Fychan, and his relative Walter Lloyd; who saved the life of the Sovereign at the expence of their own; falling victims to their courage, after receiving many fatal wounds. The King, when victory was announced, rode up, and approaching the place where they lay weltering in their blood, conferred on them, in articulo mortis, the moment

* Hist. of England, Vol. II. p. 654.

ment of death, the only reward of their valour he could bestow on the melancholy occasion, the honour of knighthood. The circumstance is charmingly embellished, and the character of Gam finely depicted, in that of Captain Fluellin, by our immortal bard.

The inhabitants of this town are chiefly employed in handicraft business, a considerable tanning business being carried on here, the manufacture of flannel, and what are provincially termed webs, by the London drapers, and Welsh plain or cottons. These are a coarse sort of white thick cloth, made in pieces of length from ninety to one hundred and twenty yards, which formerly constituted a portion of the export trade; but latterly, this article has been confined for clothing the army, and home consumption.

Near the village of CEMMES, stands ABERMIRIARTH HALL, the residence of *Sir J. Dashwood King, bart.* erected on an eminence amidst rich plantations; a seat that far exceeds in picturesque beauty his enviable seat at West Wycombe in the county of Bucks.

LLANRHAIADR, a village partly in Denbighshire, and partly in Montgomeryshire is situated in a deep hollow, surrounded by mountains whose summits are frequently obscured by the impending clouds. It receives the epithet of *mochnant*, or the vale of the rapid brook, to distinguish it from other places in North Wales of the same name, consisting of sixteen townships: the parish is populous, and the church dedicated to St. Dogvan, is, for this part of the country, a good building. The living is a rich one, and the place has been distinguished by several of its incumbents having been celebrated men. Dr. William Morgan, who first translated the Bible into Welsh was rector here, prior to his being rewarded by queen Elizabeth with the bishoprick of Llandaff in 1595, from whence he was translated to St. Asaph. The last rector of the parish, was the learned but facetious divine, Dr. South. On his decease the tithes were, by an act of Parliament, appropriated towards the maintenance of the choir, and repairs of the cathedral of St. Asaph. The learned

learned and excellent character, Dr. Worthington was also vicar of this place.

The cataract, called *Pystyll Rhaïadr*, is well deserving the attention of the observant traveller, as being the most celebrated waterfall in this country. It terminates the precipitous end of a very narrow well-wooded valley, dividing, as it were, a bold front of the Berwyn mountains. Through this flows the small river Rhaiadr, constituting here a boundary line betwixt the counties of Montgomery and Denbigh; and in its course forms many gratifying scenes, before it joins its waters with the Tanat. The river, after sliding gently down a small declivity, suddenly darts over a perpendicular ledge of rock upwards of two hundred feet in height, and thence it, furiously rages through a natural arch, forming a second cataract, into a small basin at the base. The water in its descent, is obstructed by the mass of rock, which forms the sides of the passage it has forced; and, impatient of controul, impetuously bursts through with thundering noise, emitting a spray, like the smoke, issuing from the explosion of a cannon. The cataract itself is devoid of wood; but it has so much simple grandeur, that trees perhaps would tend to diminish, rather than heighten the effect. The upper part of the cataract, when the sun shines upon it, is visible to a great distance, along the valley, and the sylvan scenery, in the opposite view, forms a fine contrast to the bleak, naked, barren rock, over which the river rolls its turbulent waters; and along this hollow, its linear and silvery appearance give an air of singularity and diversity to many of its views. Yet Mr. Skrine, who from his writings appears to have indulged a taste for the beauties of ever-varied nature, observes, "Though certainly the highest, this is far from being the most picturesque waterfall, we had seen in our tour; and perhaps it fails at the first view to strike the sight so forcibly as might be expected, in consequence of the great absence of all external scenic beauty,"* He

* Tours in Wales.

He could not help however, when he reached the spot, being strongly impressed with its magnitude, and sublimity; though the stream, at the time, was more scanty, than usual. The late worthy vicar of Llanhaiadr contrived to prevent a disappointment of this nature, happening to any friends, that visited his hospitable dwelling. He had a pair of flood-gates, fixed in the stream above the fall, occasionally to obstruct the passage of the water. And when a sufficient quantity had been accumulated, they were suddenly thrown open, and the rushing down of the collected flood, is said to have afforded a spectacle, similar to that produced in a rainy season by the mountain torrents. This gentleman, also, erected a small cottage at the base of the rock, for the accommodation of general visitors. This is exceedingly convenient for those who take refreshments with them, as the cataract is more than four miles distant from the village.

Bodfach, finely situated on the banks of the Cain, was a seat of the late *Bel Lloyd, esq.* in right of the heiress of the place, Miss Price. The house is a good mansion, and the grounds were greatly improved by the late owner, whose taste for planting was unrivalled in this part of the country. The natural situation, also, adds fresh charms to the place. The valley here beginning to expand, has its beauties heightened by cultivation; and the river meandering through rich meads, bounded by low well wooded hills, with the town and church of Llanfyllin, appearing in one angle, contribute to afford variety to the view. It now belongs to his son Edward Lloyd, Esq.

LLANFYLLIN.

A market town, containing about a thousand inhabitants, was incorporated under a charter, granted by Llewelyn ap Gryffydd, in the time of Edward the second; and afterwards confirmed by Edward de Charlton, lord of Powys. Among other privileges the burgesses were exempted from toll throughout

the Prince's territories, and exonerated from *theam, gileam,* &c. &c. *hampsum.* They were also invested with the power of taking, imprisoning, and trying thieves, and other malefactors; and if they escaped the hands of justice, of pursuing them for one league round the town. Any stranger residing in the place, and paying scot and lot, for the space of one year, obtained its freedom. By virtue of the charter it is governed by two bailiffs, chosen annually, and who under a further grant in the time of Charles the second were made justices of the peace, for the corporate district, during the time, they held the office. Having no manufactures, very little trade, and being no thoroughfare, it is rather a dull, poor town.

Llwydiarth Hall, a seat of *Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, bart.* is a very large old mansion, surrounded by a well wooded park, which being situated in a hilly naked country has its natural beauties heightened, by the sterile contrast of the adjacent scenery.

Llangedwen Hall, another seat of the same baronet, stands in the vale of Llangedwen. The house is a handsome stone edifice, and was a favourite residence of the present proprietor's father; but is now seldom visited by the family.

Llanymynach, or Llanymyneich, a considerable village and of high antiquity, is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Vyrnwy; which river is navigable, during several months in the year, for barges from forty to fifty tons burthen, into the Severn, that runs about three miles distant; this circumstance and its standing in the opening of three vallies, at the intersection of two great public roads, render it very advantageous for trade.

The name, signifying the village of miners, points out its origin. In the north-west part of the parish is an isolated hill, once abounding with copper, lead, and other minerals, well worthy the traveller's notice. It appears to have obtained attention so early as the time of the Romans, who found it their interest to anatomize the bowels of Llanymynach hill. A strong vestige of their mining is, " an immense level,

branching out in various directions, as they were induced to proceed by the intimations of the different veins of ore. Its windings are so numerous and intricate, that some years back two men of this parish, endeavouring, to explore its mazes, were so bewildered in its labyrinths, that, when they were found by some miners, who were sent in search of them, they had lain themselves down in despair of ever seeing any more the light of day. It is now called the Ogo, or Cavern. About forty years back some miners in search of more copper, found in the recesses several skeletons, lying in their natural order. When alive they seem to have dragged a life of misery, in this gloomy mansion for some time; for there were some culinary utensils, a fire place, and a small hatchet found near them. There were also found a number of Roman coins, Antoninus, Faustina, and others. One skeleton had a bracelet of glass beads, like those druidical rings called glain neidr, the ova anguinum of Pliny, around his left-wrist, and a battle-axe by his side. About fifteen years after this first discovery, other miners found several human bones there; and a golden bracelet clasping about the wrist."*

The Romans appear to have pursued this vein of copper from the Ogo, the whole length of the hill in an easterly direction; which is evident from numerous cavities on the summit. Both copper and lead ores are still dug here; but the works have been for some years past in a declining state, from the ore obtained, not answering the expence incurred in working the mines. Zinc is found in both its unions with the carbonic and sulphuric acids, commonly known under the appellation of calamine, and black-jack. The matrix of the different ores is limestone of an excellent quality, either for building, or agricultural purposes. Much of it is a kind of pearl-coloured marble, variegated with red and white veins; and capable of receiving a high degree of polish. The strata consist of numerous layers, generally in an horizontal

* Cambrian Register for 1795, p. 271.

tal position, except in some instances in which they are curvilinear; and in one place, where, by some convulsion of nature, they incline downward, forming an obtuse angle with the plane of the horizon; measuring about fifty degrees. In some of the best quarries, from ten to twelve layers may be seen at one perpendicular view. That, belonging to a Mr. Baugh, comprises twenty, making the depth of limestone sixty-two feet and a half.

Llanymynach hill supplies a considerable part of Salop with lime, and nearly the whole of Montgomeryshire; it being conveyed for manure to the distance of forty-five miles. The quantity burnt on the hill, is inconceivably great; and much is carried off in its indurated form. About one hundred and fifty men are employed at the kilns, in Summer; and about fifty in quarrying-stone during the Winter. The season of carriage continues from March till October, and the products amounted, one year, to eight thousand tons and upwards. The demand has continued to increase; for after the improvement of the roads, under the turnpike act, the increase of lime for agricultural purposes in this county was judged to be ten-fold; and since the carriage has been further facilitated to several parts, by the opening a navigable canal, the quantity has been immense.

Besides calcareous matter, this hill affords some pure, and some mixed, or aerated argill; and the miners, in sinking a shaft in quest of calamine, after having obtained the depth of thirty-five yards, through lime-stone, discovered that the substratum consisted intirely of a kind of red bolar earth.

This hill has witnessed some of those sanguinary contentions, which marked the period of the early history of this island. On one of its sloping sides, in the most accessible part, a stupendous rampart of loose stones, accompanied by a deep foss extends from top to bottom; and at certain distances beyond, are two other fossa, cut through the rock, with vast labour; these probably originally had their concomitant valla. This has been a supposed work of the Romans, to guard their ores from depredation; but it was more probably British,

British, formed as a defence against the incursions of the Saxons; for the works are similar to those, which constituted the strength of other posts, erected by the Britons; and the famous Clawdd Offa of the Mercian prince, may be distinctly traced across the hill; and about two miles distant, on the banks of the Vyrnwy, once stood *Carreg Hwva castle*, of which no vestiges remain at present, except the foss on the eastern side. Respecting this place of refuge, history is nearly silent, save, that mention is made of its having been taken in the year 1162, by Owain Cyveiliog, and Owain ap Madoc, who kept possession of it for twenty five years; when it was besieged by Gwynwynwyn, and Cadwallon, in which engagement Madoc was slain, and the fortress taken.

From the summit of the hill, says Mr. Bingley, I had an extensive view over the plains towards Shrewsbury, on the east; and, on the other side, of the rough and uncultivated parts of Montgomeryshire, in which I either could, or fancied I could, discern the lofty cataract of Pistyll Rhaiadr, lighted by the beams of a morning sun, and glittering like a stream of light down the black front of its rock. Below me was the Vyrnwy sweeping in elegant curves along the meadows; and towards the south of the Breiddin hills, I had a view in Montgomeryshire of a series of wooded, and pleasant vales*. The sentimental traveller will not descend the hill, till, while the sight wanders over distant objects, the mind recurs to the transactions of former times. Beneath, on the plain, extending in a direction north to east, the finger of retrospection will trace with sensations of pain, and delight, the various scenes of action, in which the aged Llywarch Hen, exiled from his Cambrian throne, lost many a beloved son; who there bled in the cause of freedom. This prince of the northern Britons, flourished in the sixth century, and was extremely active, though too often unfortunate, in opposing the encroachments, and repelling the incursions of the Northumbrian Saxons. In the unequal

* North Wales, Vol. II. p. 95.

unequal contest he lost his patrimonial territory, and the greater number of his four-and-twenty sons. With the survivors he fled for refuge southward, and found it under the hospitable roof of Cynddylan, prince of Powys, who had his residence near Shrewsbury; after whose defeat and death, Llywarch, worn out with grief, and infirm with age, retired into the wilds of Powys-land, where, sinking under his reiterated misfortunes, he died at the very advanced age of one hundred and fifty years. His accumulated griefs, he finely depicts in plaintive numbers, through numerous elegies he composed on the melancholy occasions*.

A short excursion from Llanymynach to Newbridge will amply repay the trouble of the traveller. A bridge of seven arches is thrown across the Vyrnwy, about three miles above the ford. The waters confined by a large dam, for the use of a mill, form a fine reach; and the overflowing, a pleasing cascade. The views upwards of small vallies, and hanging woods, enlivened by the windings of the river, are exceedingly beautiful.

Meifod or Meivod, is supposed to have derived the name from *Meudwyfod*, a compound term, implying the habitation of an hermit, whence it has been inferred, that it was at some remote period the residence of some recluse. *Lan* is frequently added to many Welsh words, to denote they were inclosed places: thus gwinlan, a vineyard; corlan, a sheepfold; ydlan, a stackyard: so that Meudwylan would signify the precincts of the hermit. This, with the addition of the Roman termination, will make Meudwylanium, and when further latinized, *Mediolanum*, the name it bears in the itinerary, where it is placed between Bovium, Bangor; and Rutunium, Rowton. It is again noticed in Ptolomy, and the Chorography of the Ravennas. This circumstance, and others of a corroborative nature,

* See Llywarch Hen's Poems, translated by Mr. William Owen. Several of the places mentioned in the Elegies, lay in the vicinity of Oswestry, and are illustrated by a glossary published in the Cambrian Register for the year 1795.

rected to the objects by means of torches, or lighted whips of straw. In this nocturnal chase the fish are supposed to mistake the artificial light, for the emanations from the two great luminaries, the sun, or moon; they consequently advance towards it, and thus are easily caught by the treacherous art of man.

About four miles distant from Llanfair, is *Castell Caer-einion*, said to have been a Roman fortress; few remains of which are left; and of those it may be said 'etiam periere ruinæ.' Three miles farther is the peculiarly pleasing village of Buttrew, where the handsome small church and parsonage, the neat appearance of the whited cottages, with the luxuriance of highly cultivated farms, and the decent appearance of all descriptions of inhabitants, furnishes the idea of plenty and content; and must bring to the recollection of the gratified beholder, what has before been stated of the late Arthur Blayney, Esq. and the beautiful description Goldsmith gives of Auburn, which forms the opening to that inimitable poem, the Deserted Village.

"Sweet Auburn! loveliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheered the labouring swain;
Where smiling spring its earliest visits paid,
And parting Summer's ling'ring blooms delay'd.
Dear lovely bowers of innocence and ease,
Seats of my youth, when every sport could please;
How often have I loitered o'er thy green,
Where humble happiness endear'd each scene!
How often have I paus'd on every charm,
The sheltered cot, the cultivated farm;
The never-failing brook, the busy mill,
The decent church, that topt the neighbouring hill,
The hawthorn bush with seats beneath its shade,
For talking age, and whisp'ring lovers made."

The vicinity of Llanfair, on the western side, abounds in antiquities, and other curiosities. In the church-yard of Llanerfil, a parish, comprising six townships, is a well called *Ffynnon Eroul*, famous for its salutiferous virtues; and is still

attended by persons from distant parts, to participate of its healing powers. The fountain is arched over, and a channel formed to convey the waters to the spot, where the votaries pay their devotions to the naiad of the stream. On the *Drum* are three small moors, or pools, viz. *Llyn y grinwydden*, about seventy yards in diameter, is, according to report, unfathomable. *Llyn hir*, is three hundred yards in length, and nearly fifty in breadth. The water in the upper part is so skinned over, as it were, with the buoyant slough, brought down by the floods from the adjacent turbaries, that sheep can walk upon it, as they would over a quagmire. What it loses at one end it seems to gain at the other, by the continued action of the waves, when the water is agitated by violent winds: for on the north side, in dry seasons, may be seen a flat stone, inscribed MEt. II. 1430. This lies seven feet from the present bank, and probably, at the period of the date pointed out the high water mark. *Llyn y Bugail* is remarkable only for producing quantities of excellent eels.

Several others of a similar nature are to be seen in the adjoining parishes.

Various fortified posts, encampments, tumuli, &c. evince, that the surrounding district has been a theatre of Mars. Upon *Moel ddol wyn* in this parish, is a camp of an oblong form, about one hundred yards in length, having the entrance to the west, where the ascent is easiest; and on another hill, near the village, is Garddan, the diminutive of Garth, a small inclosed fort. This is of a circular shape, comprising an area about seventy feet in diameter. It is supposed these were British posts, and it is observable, that the entrances into both these strong holds, is broad and left open on the most accessible sides of the forts; being probably so contrived to give admission for the scythed chariots, anciently used in warfare by our remote ancestors.

Near Llanerfyl is a very old mansion house, called *Neuadd Wen;* which appears to have been erected upon the site of one still more ancient; for tradition states its former appellation was *Llys Wgan*, or the spacious palace: and the present name,

given to the new structure. This was the residence of Merdydd ap Cynan, brother of Gryffydd ap Cynan, prince of North Wales; and who was employed in the service of the sovereigns of Powys, and whose title was lord of Rhiwhireth, Coed talog, and Neuadd wen.

One mile, and a half from Llanerfyl is the only inn on the road between Llanfair, and Mallwyd; and miserable to an English traveller, is the accommodation it affords. The house receives the appellation of *Cas*, or *Canon office*. This name it probably takes from some religious institution, to which had been annexed the jurisdiction of this part of the country; and a stone, that till lately stood by the side of the road, on which was a cross fleury, favours the conjecture. A most noted tumulus, seventy yards in circumference, is in an adjoining field. GARTHBEIBIO, a small village, situated between the river Twrch and Banwy, has its church dedicated to Tydecho, one of the sons of Amwn Ddu, a saint, who lived at the close of the fifth, and commencement of the sixth century. He was the cousin of Cadvan, and with him co-emigrated from Armorica to Britain. A well, adjoining the church, called *Ffynnon Dydecho*, is so constructed as to form a cold bath; and some efficacy is attributed to its waters in the cure of rheumatic affections.

Near this village, while the bridge was erecting, for carrying a new road over the river, a large stone chest was found; but antiquarian curiosity soon robbed it of the contents. In this, and the adjoining parishes of Lanerfyl, and Llangadfan, are several large *Carneddau*, from thirty to sixty yards in circumference, exclusive of a greater number of smaller ones. These, which have by some been supposed the sites of military beacons, or hillocks of defence, are evidently *sepultural monuments*, as is apparent, from such as have been opened. Near *Pont y llogel* are two carneddau of different dimensions, the largest full sixty feet in diameter; and in the centre about seven feet deep. The stones composing the carn were carried off some years ago to serve, with other materials, for building the wall, surrounding Llwydiarth park. In digging, the workmen

men discovered a stone chest, placed in the middle of the heap, and covered with a large stone, for a lid; which they found it difficult to remove; when one end of it was opened, they espied a vessel, which, supposing it filled with treasure, led them to struggle hard to gain prior possession; but the victor, to his great disappointment, found the contents to be nothing more than a few ashes, mixed with small pieces of burnt bones. Besides this urn, the cistvaen, or chest, included two skeletons, the head of the one being placed near the feet of the other. From this, and other instances, where such monuments have been subject to research, the stone chests or coffins are centrically deposited, where the carn appears most protuberant. A circular range of stones are generally pitched an end, round the outside of the heap, and the stones contained within, are piled loosely in circles about the tomb; while the interstices are filled up with lesser stones. Some carns have an additional covering of earth, such as those at Nant y bran, and Ty-gwyn in the parish of Llanerfyl; others again are conical, approaching nearer to what have been strictly denominated tumuli, similar to the one on the summit of Bwlch y fadwen. The stones of which most of these Carneddau are composed, bear evident marks of ignition, and nodules of quartz are found frequently among them, rendered brittle, by the action of fire, and in some cases friable. Within ten, twenty, or fifty yards of each carn, it was the custom to place a very large stone in an upright position, as a kind of a directing mark to the object. Such as are devoid of this concomitant index, it may be supposed, have been deprived of them, since their first erection, by persons who have converted them to other purposes.

With respect to the origin, and use of these monuments, much conjectural criticism has been uselessly applied. That they were hillocks artificially raised for defence, or for the setting up of military beacons, will by no means satisfactorily account for their application. For if they were ever thus appropriated, they could only have been occasionally so; since the level area on their summits is exceedingly small, and the ground

where many of them are situated, very low; so that in either case they could have been of little utility. Both Carneddau and Tumuli are evidently of a sepulchral nature, and as funeral monuments denote the places of interment of ancient chieftains, and their immediate dependents. The graves, or carns "of the commonalty are found on the hills; where there is a declivity, a small hollow is to be seen, and the earth heaped below, like a small hillock of an oblong form. When these are opened a stratum of ashes, blackish, or red burnt earth is discovered. These hollows are to be seen in great numbers on a hill called Pencoed, in Llangadvan. The vulgar tradition is, that they are saw-pits, and that the timber employed in constructing the church, formerly grew in the vicinity. But, on digging in some of the hollows, I immediately found, by the native hard gravelly soil, that they had never been deep enough for that purpose. I then imagined, that the right name of the hill was *Pencad*, or the hill of battle, that all those hollows were graves, and that their manner of burial was this. The dead body was laid on the bare sward, plaistered over with clay, and covered with dry turf; a fire was then made over it with furze, wood, &c. until the corps was reduced to ashes, or so, that the flesh was consumed, and the bones nearly burnt. Then the charcoal and ashes were covered with earth, and sometimes stones were laid upon it. The earns, in general, bear evident marks of fire: the heat had been so vehement in a small one, that I opened, that the stones were in a great measure vitrified. What Briton but must smile, when he hears wrong-headed English writers insisting, that these tumuli, carns, and huge stone monuments, must have been the fabrication either of the Romans, or of their own roving ancestors, the Saxons, or Danes! Were the Saxons, or Danes, ever possessed of those parts of Wales, where such monuments are so numerous? What a ridiculous contest has been about a certain barrow, whether it was raised over a Roman general, or a Saxon depredator? But, if they had supposed it to have been raised a thousand years before any Roman, or Saxon invader

invader ever arrived here, they would have been more happy in their conjecture*."

Returning through Llanfair, by a pleasing, though hilly road, the traveller reaches, at the distance of eight miles, the interesting vicinity of Welsh Pool. To the north, appear conspicuous, the chain of mountains, already briefly mentioned, denominated the *Freidden* hills. The high linear ridge of which rocky mass, is divided into three peaks, distinguished by different names, viz. *Craig y Freidden*, *Cefn Castell*, and *Moel y Golfa*. On the latter, the highest and most conical in shape, a lofty and handsome obelisk was erected some years ago, in commemoration of the victories obtained over the naval power of France, by the prowess of Lord Rodney; particularly the defeat of the powerful fleet in the West Indies, under the command of Count de Grasse: and the valour of Britons on the ever memorable twelfth of April, 1781, are recorded on the pedestal of this noble column. It was raised at the expence of a few neighbouring families, who handsomely and liberally came forward with their subscriptions on the occasion. The bases of these hills are finely skirted with wood; while the rocky sides present a most precipitous, and tremendous looking escarpment. On a small plain, to the left, called Crow-green, *Belin* mount, a large isolated rock, starts up remote from its congenerate hills, appearing like an advanced, or piquet guard, to bar the approach of hostile, or unhallowed steps. For within sight of this vast ridge of mountains, GWALCHMAI, the son of Meilyr, one of the most celebrated poets of the twelfth century, composed an inimitable poem. His genius was equally formed for poetry and war. After being under arms the whole night, charmed with the approach of day, and the beauty of the surrounding prospect, the melody of birds, and the murmurs of the waters, he forgets all care, and, despising the danger of the neighbouring foe, thus bursts out into the ode called

* Statistical account of the parishes of Llanerfyl, Llangadvan, and Garthbeibio, in Montgomeryshire, published in the Cambrian Register, for the year 1796.

Gorhoffed Gwalchmai, or the favourite of Gwalchmai; beginning,

" Mochddwyreawg huam dyffes tist
Maws, &c.——————"

Rise, orb of Day! the eastern gates unfold,
And shew thy crimson mantle fring'd with gold.
Contending birds sweet sing on every spray;
The skies are bright; arise, thou orb of Day!
I, Gwalchmai, call; in song, in war renown'd
Who, lion-like, confusion spread around.
The live-long night, the hero and the bard
Near Freiddin's rocks have kept a constant guard;
Where cool transparent streams in murmurs glide,
And springing grass adorn the mountain's side;
Where snow-white sea-mews in the current play,
Spread their gay plumes, and frolic through the day.

R. W*.

Among the pleasing scenery in the vicinity of Welsh Pool, where the country is charmingly broken into gentle risings well clothed with wood, is the village with its small neat church, of GILSFIELD. In this parish was situated the abbey of YSTRAT MARCHELL, or *Strata Marcella*, frequently in ancient deeds, denominated, *Alba domus de Marcella Vallis Crucis*, or *Pola*, from its contiguity to that place. This house was founded for monks of the Cistercian order, about A. D. 1170: and the founder, appears from Tanner†, to have been Owen Cyfeiliog, prince of Powys. Certainly the institution must have been in existence soon after that period; for, by a charter, not found in the Monasticon, but in the possession of the late Mr. Pennant, it is evidently mentioned under the name of *Stradmarchel*; and its situation in that instrument, circuitously described. Gwenwynwyn, son of the above named prince, made a donation to God, the glorious virgin his mother, and the monks of Strathmarchel,

* This small specimen of the delightful poem, is at once a convincing proof of the spirited manner of the original; and the poetical talents of the translator, *Mr. Williams*.

† Notitia Monastica, 716.

marchel, to procure rest for his soul, by a free and perpetual eleemosynary grant, all the pasturage in the district of Cyfeiliog. The author of the Notitia, from some obscure documents, was led to conjecture, that Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor refounded this monastery; but it seems, from Dugdale, that prince only made a bequest of a tract of land for the purpose of founding a cell, to accommodate a further number of religious recluse. One of the petitioners, on the occasion was Philip, abbot of Strathmarchel; which is a corroborating proof of the early foundation of the institution.

At the commencement of his reign, Edward the third, with that policy, which evinced the discernment of his mind, commanded the Welsh monks to be removed, and distributed in different English abbies; while their seats were, at the same time, filled by monks from the latter. In addition to this exchange, the monastery was placed under regimen, being made subject to that of Buildwas in the county of Salop. The annual revenues at the dissolution, according to Dugdale, amounted to 64l. 14s. 2d; and to Speed 73l. 7s. 3d.

Buttington, the *Butdigingtune* of the Saxon chronicle, is remarkable, for having been the scene of a most sanguinary contest, between the two opposing parties, upon whom the Welsh, when neither hostilely interfered, looked upon with apparent indifference, though with a jealous eye, as marauding intruders. The Danes, amused with a depredatory warfare in the north of France, had not for some time visited Britain. But again A. D. 894, having relanded with reinforcements, under their leader Hesten, or Hasten, they traversed the kingdom from east to west. Finding Alfred, who had ascended the English throne, was in pursuit of them with a powerful army, they hastily decamped from the west of England; and took a course towards Wales. So quickly, however, were they pursued by the Saxons, that the generals of Alfred overtook them at this village; where they made a desperate stand. But so closely were they blockaded in their entrenched camp, that these pagans were compelled to eat their horses, for want of other subsistence; and after attempting, to cut their way through

the enemy's camp, were repulsed with great slaughter, few escaping to relate the disaster*.

"Hastings, (having obtained shipping,) sailed daringly up the Thames into the heart of the king's dominions. By this intrepid measure, he had often scattered terror through France, and enriched himself with booty. From the Thames he then marauded to the Severn. But his presence roused to their duty the military commanders of every district, which he traversed. Ethered, the governor of Mercia, two other aldermen, and the King's thanes, who were residing in the strong holds, which he had erected, summoned the people from the east of Pedridan, the west of Selwood, and the east and north of the Thames, to the west of the Severn, with some portion of North Welsh. The willing citizens united to protect their families and their property, pursued the bold invaders to Buttington, on the Severn, and besieged them in their fortress. Surrounded by the hostility of the country, and without shipping, they were obliged to submit to the blockade. They were lodged on both banks of the Severn, and they remained confined to their post for several weeks, enduring every extremity of distress. A great part of their horses were destroyed for their subsistence, and many perished by famine.

"The success with which the generals of Alfred, and their hasty levies, compelled such a spirit as that of Hastings, to submit to a calamitous confinement, announces highly the energy and wisdom of the regulations by which Alfred had provided for the defence of his people. Roused by their sufferings to furious action, the northern men made at last a desperate attempt to burst from their prison. They threw themselves upon the Anglo-Saxons, who occupied the eastern part of the blockade, and after an ardent conflict, in which several royal thanes perished, they achieved their escape. They who survived the consumption of the battle, went directly forward to Essex, and reached their entrenchments, and the ships they had abandoned, without further molestation†."

WELSH

* Saxon Chronicle, 94, 95.

† Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 277.

WELSH POOL,

So denominated, to distinguish it from a town of the same name in Dorsetshire. Camden observes, the ancient name of this place, ' *Tralhwn*, that is the town by the lake, whence the English call it Welsh Pool; which etymology is agreeable enough with the situation of the place,' otherwise he might have been induced to suspect, that the term *Tralhwn* might be the name of some place, near this pool, prior to the town having been built; and that from such locality its appellation was derived. ' For in some parts of Wales it is a common appellative, for such soft places on the roads, or elsewhere, as travellers may be apt to sink into; as I have observed particularly in the mountains of Glamorganshire. And, that a great deal of the ground near this place is such, is also very well known. As for the etymon of the appellative Tralhwn, I suppose it only an abbreviation of *Traeth-lyn*, i. e. *a quagmire**.' Perhaps it might as feasibly been deduced from *Traeth*, a tract, and *llwyn*, a grove, that is, a well wooded tract, in contradistinction to the surrounding hills, unclothed with similar sylvan beauty.

The place, however, without any elaborately-strained etymology, probably derived its present distinctive appellation from a deep pool, formerly on the waste, but now within the inclosure of Powys park, denominated, from the dark appearance of its waters, Llyndy pool. In those ages of ignorance, when the more wonderful a story appeared, the more palatable it became, and the nearer it approximated to impossible, the easier it was propagated; this pool was considered unfathomable, or as it is termed by the vulgar, without a bottom. Divers attempts have at times been made to ascertain the actual depth; but it is generally supposed, from the variations in the different results, that an intercommunication subsists between the waters of the Severn, and the pool: at least, if not constantly, at certain times. The deduction, drawn from the collective experiments is, that the average depth is nearly *three hundred feet*.

Though

* Britannia, Gibson's, Edit. p 781.

Though by no means singular, yet it is deeply to be lamented, to find what different, and often contradictory accounts, travellers give, not only of places in foreign climes; but also of those within the narrow limits of this sea-girt isle: where, from the confined nature of the country, and the facility of obtaining knowledge, such accounts may so easily be investigated, and their accuracy, or inaccuracy, quickly ascertained. This is represented by the Bathonian pedestrian, as one that 'holds out nothing to detain the traveller: it is an ill built straggling town, remarkable only, for being the storehouse of the flannels, manufactured in the upper counties, which are brought down here, and disposed of to the wholesale dealers, who frequent the place*.'

Leland, who wrote centuries before, describes it as very different in his time. "Walsche Poole, five miles from Montgomery, the best market of Powisland.†" Mr. Pennant observes, 'Welsh Pool, a good town, is seated in the bottom, not far from the castle.' In fact it is a large populous town, partly standing in the bottom, that extends to the river, and partly ascending a low hill towards Powys park. It consists of one long, wide, and spacious street, with another crossing it, at right angles, and several other collateral ones of lesser breadth. The uniformity and cleanliness of these, together with the houses, being for the most part well built of brick, give it rather an inviting appearance. Indeed it assumes the appearance of a town east of the Severn; and both the manners and language of the persons resident here, are so completely English, as to corroborate the first idea, formed on entering the town: the Welsh being spoken here by few, except such as come down from the country, to transact business. An air of cheerfulness, urbanity, and opulence, pervade this place, owing to the intercommunication with the more polished parts of the kingdom; and the trade in flannels; quantities of which are manufactured here, and still greater quantities brought from the hill countries; where they are made by the little farmers, with

* Warner's Walk through Wales, in August 1797.

† Itinerary, Vol. VII. p. 16.

with home-spun yarn, of wool, the produce of their native sheep; which are bought up by dealers from Liverpool and Shrewsbury. This being the principal mart for the article, a market is held once a fortnight for the sole purpose of exposing it to sale. Some webs, used for army clothing, manufactured in the adjoining county of Merioneth, also, by this route find a way to a ready market.

The *church*, though in the pointed style, is apparently a structure of no great antiquity; nor is it remarkable for any collective, or particular elegance. It stands singularly at the bottom of the hill, and is so low, that the ground of the cemetery almost equals the height of the building: a circumstance, arising, partly from natural situation, and partly from the accumulated soil of sepultural accretion. Among its sacramental ornaments, and sacristal utensils, is a chalice of pure gold, brought from Guinea, on the coast of Africa; containing by measure a wine quart, and intrinsically valued at about one hundred and seventy pounds. The account generally given to strangers, by the sexton in waiting, is, that it was the gift of a transported felon, who having been successful abroad, on his return, presented this, as a peace offering, in grateful remembrance of the mercy he had, under Providence, received. But such an idle story is at once refuted by the inscription it bears, which places the relation in its just light; informing the classic reader, it was the donation of *Thomas Davies*, some time governor-general of the English colonies on the western coast of Africa, in consideration of his life having been preserved, during his residence in that unhealthy clime, under many difficulties, and dangers. This, under such pious impression, he presented to the church of Pool; and adds a strong imprecation against any person, who should ever alienate the sacred vessel from the pious uses, for which it was originally designed.

THOMAS DAVIES Anglorum in *Africa* plaga
Occidentalis procurator generalis
Ob vitam multifaria DEI misericordia ibidem conservatam
Calicem hunc e purissimo auro *Guineano* conflatum
CLX. VIII. minis Valentem. DEI honori et ecclesiæ

de

de *Welsh Pool* ministerio, perpetuo' sacrum voluit.
A quo usu S. S. si quis facinorosus eundem calicem
In posterum alienaret (quod avertat DEUS) DEI vindicis
Supremo tribunali pœnas luat.
Cal. Apr. IX. MDLXII.

The county hall, lately erected in the centre of the principal street is among the number of recent improvements made in this town, and neighbourhood; which is at once an ornament to the place, and a standing proof of the spirited liberality of the county: for it was built at the expence of a few gentlemen with the express purpose of easing the county-rate, previously sufficiently burthened with necessary levies. The structure, presenting an elegant front with a colonade and pilasters of stone, consists of upper apartments, for the administration of justice; and lower ones, for the accommodation of trade. Beneath is a spacious place appropriated as a corn market; a separate space, for the sale of miscellaneous articles; and an ample court, for holding the assizes, or great sessions. On the second floor is the county hall-room, for convening public meetings; measuring 64 feet in length, by 25 in breadth, and 18 feet high. A handsome room adjoining is fitted up for the use of the grand jury.

Pool, as a town, enjoyed numerous privileges, under the auspices of the owner of the adjacent domain of Powys castle: and by one of its princes early incorporated; but the present charter was granted in the time of Charles the second; by virtue of which, it is governed by two bailiffs, a high steward, town-clerk, two serjeants at mace, &c. &c. From the returns made to parliament, the number of houses appears to be 530; and the population 2872. But this enumeration includes the adjoining hamlets. The Severn becomes navigable a little below the town, at what is called the Pool-stake; and a branch of the Ellesmere canal, running near, tends to facilitate carriage by a water conveyance.

POWYS CASTLE. This venerable pile, situated in a well wooded park, about a mile from Pool, on the right of the road

to

POWIS CASTLE.
Wales.

to Montgomery, is built in the ancient style of domestic architecture, participating of the castle and mansion. It stands on the ridge of a rock, is constructed of red sand stone, and the dilapidations made by time in the external walls, have been repaired by a coat of red plaistering. The entrance is by an ancient gateway, between two massy circular towers, into the area, or court, round which the apartments range. Several other towers are still standing, flanked with semicircular bastions. The site is elevated and commanding, looking over a vast tract of country, the greater part of which was, formerly, subject to its lords. In front two immense terraces, rising one above another, form the ascent, by means of a vast flight of steps, to the house. These are ornamented with vases, statues, antique remains, &c. &c. The edifice is kept up, as an habitable mansion, though rarely visited by its noble owner. The inside has a heavy, and unpleasant appearance from the great thickness of the walls: and the whole building brings strongly to the recollection the cumbersome magnificence of former times. The interior exhibits little worthy the curious traveller's notice, excepting the principal gallery, measuring one hundred and seventeen feet in length, by twenty in breadth. This was originally much longer; but in the modernizing plan a large room was taken from it, at one end. This is of a later date than the other part of the building; and is said to have been detached from it, about seventy years ago. The apartments on the ground floor, are gloomy, as are also the dining, and state, bed rooms; but the saloon and library are well lighted; and afford a most cheering and delightful prospect: the view from the former embracing the rich vale of the Severn, with the Freidden hills in the contrasted back ground. These contain some valuable antiques. In the large parlour, within the dwelling house, is a full length picture of *Roger Palmer*, earl of *Castlemain*, who obtained the peerage by the influence of his wife, a mistress to king Charles the second, the notorious *duchess of Cleveland*. Dressed in the costume of the times, a black wig, large cravat and scarlet mantle, he is represented

presented as in the act of dictating to his secretary the nature of his instructions. This singular character was sent by his master, James the second, to endeavour to obtain a pardon, for the three realms, under his sovereignty, on account of their long lapse to heresy; and, if possible, procure a reconciliation, by means of the Holy see, between the two dissevered churches. The pope well convinced of the folly of such an attempt, under the then existing circumstances, it is said, never could give an audience to the English ambassador, without being seized with a fit of coughing: which invariably interrupted the subject of consultation. Wearied with delay, the Envoy took umbrage; and in the warmth of zeal for his master's cause, threatened, if not speedily granted a satisfactory answer, he would pack up his credentials, and leave Rome. His holiness, with that sang froid, best understood, and most easily adopted, by deep politicians, replied, that, if such were his determined resolution, so hastily, and perhaps unadvisedly formed, he would, with the most cordial affection, recommend him 'to travel early in the morning, and to rest at noon, least by over fatigue, and the effects of heat, he should endanger his health*.' Thus ended the catholic mission from the crown of England!!!

A narrow gallery, leading to the sleeping rooms, is hung round with family portraits, most of which appear indifferently executed, and less interesting in point of public character. On one of the ceilings is displayed much pictorial flattery, to the female part of the family; in the representation of three daughters of William, second marquis of Powys. One is depicted as truth; lady Throgmorton appears as charity; lady Mary as Minerva; and Justice is seen driving away envy, malice, and other vices. Few ladies have made so conspicuous a figure as lady Mary. She was engaged deeply in the Missisippi scheme, and dreamt of millions; aimed at being royal consort to the late pretender; failed in her plans; and, with another

* A very copious and interesting account of this ridiculous business is given by Misson, Vol. III. p. 176, &c.

another noble adventurer, retired to Spain, in search of gold in the deceptive mines of the Asturias.

" The crown of Poland, venal twice an age,
To just three millions stinted modest gage:
But nobler scenes Maria's dreams unfold;
Hereditary realms, and worlds of gold.
Congenial souls! whose life once av'rice joins,
And one fate buries in th' Asturian mines."

In a detached building, more modern than the castle, is a collection of 60 or 70 pictures. Some of these are by the first masters, as Poussin, Claude, Bassano, Vleiger, Canaletti, Cuyp, &c. The virgin and child by Carlo Dolce; three owls by Rubens, and an ancient painting in fresco, from the ruined city of Pompeii. The portrait of the late lord Clive, by Dance. In an adjoining closet is the model of an elephant, covered with a coat of mail, with two Indians upon its back; brought from India by the late lord Clive.

The hanging gardens, composed of terrace upon terrace, are ascended by flights of steps cut out of the solid rock; the clipped shrubs, and the remains of water-works, discover the imitations of the wretched taste displayed at St. Germain's, which one of its possessors * had unfortunately too great an opportunity of copying. All was lately in the style of the last century, and the description of Timon's villa was here realized:

" Lo, what huge heaps of littleness around!
The whole a laboured quarry above ground;
Two cupids squirt before: a lake behind,
Improves the keenness of the northern wind.
His gardens next your admiration call,
On every side you look, behold the wall!

No

* This was the titular duke of Powys, the honour having been a post-abdication creation. The nobleman followed the fortunes of his royal master, James the second, and died at St. Germain's in 1696.

No pleasing intricacies intervene,
No artful wildness to perplex the scene;
Grove nods at grove, each alley has a brother,
And half the platform just reflects the other."

POPE.

Some few of these fanciful ornaments have, however, been lately removed, and some attempts made to modernize the gardens as well as the house.

The park is formed of spacious and verdant lawns, with swelling hills, well clothed with wood. The venerable oak, wide-spreading beech and ornamental chesnut, diversify the views in rich variety; and highly contribute to render Powys Park an enviable place to the lovers of forest scenery. It is, however, to be regretted, that this venerable castle is going fast to decay. The buildings are in a state of dilapidation; the gardens and grounds are neglected, and the pride and ornament of the park is being removed, for the sake of the timber. What the hand of time is doing for the one, the hand of avarice is doing for the other; so that at no very distant period, the beauty and magnificence of Powys will be no more; and some poor drivelling boy will have to shew the passing traveller, the spot where Cadwgan lived, and Bleddyn's royal race.

Powys castle is intimately connected with a large and important portion of the historic affairs, that occurred in the middle ages; and more particularly with those interesting events, which occurred in the warfare on the borders, denominated the marches of Wales.

The first notice, which history takes of this place, is about the year 1109, when Cadwgan ap Bleddyn ap Cynfyn sought an asylum at Trallyn, now Pool, after having reduced the country to some kind of settlement; and restored the courts of judicature, in which he sate in person to administer justice. Here he began to erect a castle, and intended to make this the constant seat of his future residence. But having been treacherously murdered by his nephew Madwc, the building was

left unfinished.* It appears, that it was continued by Gwynwynwyn, who succeeded his father Owen Cyveilioc, in the government of this part of Powys-land; for in the year 1191, in consequence of various depredations having been committed by the Welsh on the inhabitants of the Marches, Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury, in the absence of his sovereign, Richard the first, who was engaged in a crusade to the Holy Land, came with a powerful army and besieged this fortress. He met with a most vigorous resistance, nor did the garrison surrender, till they found the walls had been sapped by a company of miners; and not even then, till they had obtained the most honourable terms of capitulation.

The military Archbishop† refortified the place, and having left in it a strong garrison returned to England. But Gwynwywyn, feeling the loss of his principal strong hold, determined to make use of every energy for its recovery. His efforts proved successful. He laid siege to it, and shortly it was delivered up to him upon the same terms, which his own men had previously received at the hands of the English commander.‡ At this time it received the appellation of *Gwynwynwyn's* castle at the Pool.

The Prince of Powys, however, disgusted with the proceedings of the prince of Gwynedd, was induced to go over to the English side, and consented to become a vassal to king John, and hold his territory in capite of the crown. His son and succes-

* Wynne's Hist. of Wales p. 157.

† The first offices of the state, during the papal ages, were usually filled by churchmen; and an ecclesiastic at the head of an army, or a division of it, was so ordinary a circumstance, as to excite no surprise, nor even produce the most distant idea of the gross impropriety. On Richard's determination to join the Crusaders in person, for the recovery of the Holy-Land, he invested Herbert with regal power, as his lord lieutenant in the intrim. And having accepted such a trust, and been endued with such a power, personating the King, the Archbishop marched at the head of the army for the the defence of the realm.

‡ Hovedon and Stowe say this event happened in the year 1197.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

THIS county, called by the Welsh *Meironydd*, is the only one in Wales, that with the addition of shire still retains its ancient appellation. It was so denominated from Meirion the son of Tibiawn, and grandson of Cunedda, a noble British chieftain, who came to North Wales in the fifth century, for the purpose of assisting in rescuing it from the grasp of a set of marauding Irish, who for the sake of plunder had nearly overrun the whole country. Having succeeded in his enterprise, he obtained a large portion of territory as a boon, and gavelled out the possessions among his ten sons, and two grandsons, Maelor and Meirion.

This district appears to have been known to the Romans, and was called by them Mervinia. Traces of their footsteps are evident in several ancient fortifications, generally acknowledged to have been raised by that people; such as *Tommen y Bala*, near Bala town, *Caer Gai* in the vicinity of Llanuwchllyn; *Cefn Caer* in the parish of Penul, *Tommen y Mur* near Festeniog &c. &c. Numerous *coins* of different emperors have been discovered in a variety of places. Some of Domitian at Caer gar, and many in a rock near Llanbedr impressed with the names of Philippus, Cæsar Victorinus, Posthumus, Tetricius, with others bearing the effigies of a female head; the inscription round the exergue, DIVÆ MARIANÆ; on the obverse side the figure of a man having a javelin in his hand, sitting between

situation of the gardens is not the most favourable. Hanging square terraces, shelf above shelf, but ill-accord with the fine swells, exhibited by the opposite lawn; and sash windows in the recent fashion, are far from quadrating with the massy bastions, and antique towers, of the original building. "Powys castle" observes a topographical writer of some eminence, when describing Montgomeryshire, "stands pre-eminent in this part of the country for its fine situation and commanding terrace. It is one of those buildings, the character of which requires the adoption of Italian architecture, and the old-fashioned style of gardening; its terraces should be preserved, its balustrades decorated with statues and vases, interwoven with creeping plants and evergreens; in short, it should be made a *Villa d'Este* in miniature."

END OF MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

about five in breadth, was swallowed up and lost. On the north, this county partly borders upon that of Caernarvon, it being separated from it by an immense ravine, through which the river Glas-lyn flows; and a bridge, already described, unites the two. A portion to the north, also is divided by an alpine ridge, extending from beyond Rûg, on the east, to Llyn Elidyr on the west. Montgomeryshire lies to the east, and the river Dovey severs it from Cardigan on the south. Its length, from Beddgelert near Snowdon, to Bwlch y Vedwen, on the confines of Montgomeryshire, is forty-three miles; and from Harlech to the extreme boundary of Llangollen parish, thirty-eight.

In point of natural features this differs from most other counties of North Wales. It is extremely mountainous; and though the mountains are not so high, as those of the adjacent county of Caernarvon; yet many are very lofty; and others of less towering height, are from their craggy nature both picturesque and sublime. Giraldus describes them of extraordinary height, terminating in sharp peaks, and standing so close together, and separated by such narrow vallies, as to afford an opportunity of holding a conversation from mountain to mountain. From this circumstance, he pronounces it the roughest and most unpleasant county in the principality. Taste however varies in different, eras and in different persons. How the appearances of a country may strike divers persons it is not easy to account for: there is hardly any fixed standard, yet established, after all that has been written upon the subject. Some form their estimate by a comparison with their native country; others by a calculation of the quantum of produce and profit the soil is likely to yield. One contrasting it with the gayer scenes of a highly cultivated country, will consider the general aspect of Merioneth bleak and dreary, only calculated to produce ennui and melancholy; while another looking with the painter's or the poet's eye, will see an endless diversity, tending to excite the most lively sensations; and fraught with the most captivating charms. Few in the present age will coincide in opinion with

the learned monk. For if a variety of objects, forming innumerable contrasts render, a country delightful, this will be able to vie with most; affording, exclusive of the grandeur of its maritime views, not only exceeding lofty mountains with innumerable inaccessible crags; but also lower hills, some level plains, and humble vallies, interspersed with woods, lakes, rivers, rivulets, cataracts, woods, and all the rich assemblage of variegated Nature.

The principal MOUNTAINS of this shire are *Cader Idris*, little inferior in elevation, to Snowdon; the two *Arans*, *Benllyn*, and *Fowddwy*, the two *Arrenigs*, *Moelwyn*, and many of less consideration. Of the comparative heights of the chief among these an account, from actual admeasurement, was furnished Mr. Pennant by an ingenious gentleman of Bala; which confutes the vague notion of Cader Idris probably being one of the highest mountains in Britain. He states, that the highest peak called Pen y Cader is nine hundred and fifty yards higher than the green adjacent to the town of Dolgelley; Aran Fowddwy seven hundred and forty above Llyn Tegid; and the loftiest Arrenig only twenty less than the Aran. The fall from the lake to Dolgelley green, is one hundred and eighty yards, consequently the actual difference in height between the Cader and the Aran, amounts to thirty yards.

The RIVERS of this county are the *Dee*, formed by two small rivulets, which rise from springs on the side of Aran ben-Llyn, and quickly uniting their streams, enter the lake, called by the Welsh Llyn tegid, and by the English Pimble meer. The name of this river, so celebrated in song, is supposed by some to be derived from *Duw*, divine; and by others feom *ddu*, black, or dark; but the opinion of its being so called, from *du*, two, allusive to its twofold origin, seems to have an equal claim to respect, if not to preference. A similar etymology is found to hold respecting a torrent that falls into the Mawddach, which is so called from its double source. Mr. Pennant, however, was not satisfied with this latter etymon, and urges as an objection, that

that the river does not receive the appellation, till after it has left the lake, which he considers its legitimate parent. The same author denies the dark colour of its waters, and consequently rejects the opinion of the name being derived from Ddu. The fact, however, is established by those, who have visited the country, through which it passes, both in rainy and dry seasons. Before it has flowed half a mile from Bala the tinge is a deep tan colour, which it retains to a great degree through the whole course in this county. Many of the Welsh rivers and streams assume this hue, owing, evidently, to the mosses and peat bogs in which they rise, or over which they flow. Rhaiadr *Ddu*, a cataract in the vicinity of Dolgelleu, receives the epithet from the remarkable dusky hue of the waterfall. To those fond of the marvellous, the prior conjecture will probably appear the most feasible; and for its adoption much has, and more might be, advanced. 'Deva's wizard stream' was early the subject of superstition. The ancient Gauls deified fountains and rivers, and the Britons in the era of Druidism were certainly addicted to hydromancy. Giraldus, who travelled through Wales in the year 1188, is the first who mentions the supposed prophetic quality of the waters of the Dee, a circumstance which several of our descriptive poets have pleasingly introduced. Drayton calls it

> "A brook that was supposed much business to have seen,
> Which had an ancient bound 'twixt Wales and England been,
> And noted was by both to be an ominous flood."

After quitting Llyn tegid, this river flows through the beautiful vale of Edernion, and passing the small town of Corwen, leaves this county, and enters that of Denbigh.

The *Maw*, or *Mawddach*, rises about the centre of the county, and running due south to Dolgelley, receives the contributary *Eden*; and where, after becoming a tide estuary, and changing its course to the westward, falls into the Irish sea at Abermaw, Anglicised into Barmouth.

The

The *Dovey*, or *Dyfi*, has its origin at the foot of the mountainous ridge, through which the celebrated pass of Bwlch y groes forms a communication with the adjacent parts of Montgomeryshire. Thence taking a southerly direction by Dinas y Mowddu, it waters part of that country as far as Machynlleth; when it re-enters Merionethshire; and becoming a wide estuary delivers its waters to the ocean below Aberdovey.

The *Glaslyn* and *Dwy'rid* conjointly flow to the sea by the Traeth mawr and Traeth bychan. Numerous other rivulets, and streams, chiefly supplied by mountain torrents, branch off, and fertilize the numerous narrow vallies, through which they flow.

The principal LAKES, are *Llyn tegid* near Bala, and *Llyn Talyllyn* at the foot of Cader Idris mountain. To these may be added *Llyn Elider; Llyn Tecwyn ucha* and *isa; Llyn y cwm bychan*; *Llyn arrenig, &c. &c.*

AGRICULTURE.—The *soil* is various. The mountains consist principally of granite, porphyry, and other unstratified rocks; while the secondary hills are composed of primitive, or mixed schistus. The vallies contain schistose clay, and the more level parts of the country abound with peat earth, forming bogs and turbaries. From such a statement this county cannot be expected to rank high in an agricultural point of view.* The chief attention therefore of the inhabitants is confined to breeding, and the dairy. The pastures in the vallies afford sustenance to numerous herds of horned cattle: and the hills, though the grass be coarse, are nearly clothed to their summits, furnishing most extensive sheep walks, and large flocks of sheep are seen to depasture their sides, while numerous goats browse among

* Leland * in describing the different comots, represents them as generally well wooded, and abounding in corn and pasture. If this were the case, the husbandry of this district must have greatly declined since the period, when he wrote.

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 40.

among the adjacent crags. The peat bogs produce turf of an excellent quality, which is the principal fuel of the district. Several of the mountains are private property, and the demarcation of the different demesnes is made by dry walls, carried in many instances up to their very tops. This appears to be the case in some instances, where from the nature of the surface, and the sharpness of their escarpment, they seem to bid all defiance at cultivation. "The average of the county has been rated at 430,000 acres; out of which 286,000 may be uninclosed; and of that number, about 35,000 may be called improvable wastes. All the marshes on the sea coast, from Aberdyvi on the confine of Cardiganshire, to Pont Aberglaslyn on that of Caernarvonshire, are of this description. In the vicinity of Tywyn is a common of 600 acres, one moiety thereof being sound land, the other a drainable turbary; all very level, and bordering on the highly improved turbary grounds of Mr. Corbet. Harlech marsh contains some hundred of acres of sound soil."*

Though Merioneth cannot vie with the adjacent counties yet considerable improvements have been made by several landed proprietors within a few years past. Among these may be reckoned the amelioration of peat land by Mr. Corbet. When that gentleman came into possession of Ynysymaengwyn estate part of the demesne land consisting of about 260 acres of it remained in a state of nature, being a mere turbary, exclusive of the fuel, not considered worth more than nine-pence per acre. The expense of procuring hay for the sustenance of a numerous stock of cattle induced the proprietor to turn his attention to the practicability of a scheme for the redemption of such wastes. Having resolved on the plan, the work was commenced in the year 1788; and he had made so great a progress, both in embanking and draining, by the year 1794, as to obtain a gold medal from the Society for the encouragement of Arts. The

* Davies' Agriculture of North Wales, p. 235.

The crops of this improved turbary are various according to difference in their management, by manuring and irrigating; but the farm annually now produces on the average about 500 tons of hay. The expense of the improvement was estimated at 821*l.* 6s. 3d. The old rent valued at 9l. 15s. 9d. the present 450l. 2s. 6d. the annual profit, therefore, of the improvement amounts to 440l. 6s. 9d. per annum. Mr. Corbet with a spirit, that must excite the applause of every patriotic mind, and the admiration of all those, who behold sterility thus metamorphized into luxuriant herbage is still prosecuting his ameliorating system on other peat lands; and on his allotments of waste lands, near Tywyn. The late Mr. Oakley also by embanking and draining greatly improved some boggy lands that formed the fore-ground to his seat at Tanybwlch; and for which he was in 1797 presented with a gold medal, by the Society for the encouragement of Arts.

On Rûg demesne the late Colonel Salisbury expended a considerable sum of money, in draining some wet, peaty and argillaceous soils.

A great improvement was made by the late Sir Edward Lloyd on the Traeth mawr marsh, by embanking and draining, owing to which the land now lets for seven times the former value.

The grand embankment, erected by Mr. Madocks, for the recovery from the sea of the Traeth bychan, has been described in the account of Caernarvonshire.

Here should not be forgotten the laudable conduct of a great landed proprietor, and improver, Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, who, like a true conscientious country gentleman, resides on his own estate; which by introducing the discoveries and excellencies of modern practice, he has greatly improved both in appearance and value. He not only sets the example of amelioration; but also encourages and assists his numerous tenantry to follow it. Praise in such a case cannot be construed into panegyric.

Roads.—It has been remarked, 'that the original Welsh roads, generally ascending the brow of the hill, are strikingly descriptive

descriptive of the national character.' The method of surmounting difficulties in this respect appears to have been rather by a daring spirit, than the arts of circumvention. Almost every valley and dale had a road winding round its bottom, till at the extremity a mountain barrier presented itself; which was to be passed over a sudden ascent, by a path like a step ladder. A striking instance of this still remains in the abrupt passes Bwlch y groes near Llanynowddeu, and Bwlch Verddrws near Dolgelleu, and the force of the remark to no district so strongly applies as to this. But it should be observed, that this county is of great extent, and the mountainous parts far exceed the plain or cultivated lands. This forms a strong obstacle in the first formation, or the future improvement of roads: for the original expense must necessarily be great, and the tolls collected at the different gates comparatively small; owing to the thinness of population, and the low state of agriculture. To the credit of the county, however, the Magistrates have greatly exerted themselves, and spirit with perseverance has performed much. About 200 miles of new, or improved roads have been formed in the county within the space of the last thirty-five years. Among these may be noticed the fine road from Dolgelleu * to Barmouth, and more especially the one from Pont Aberglaslyn towards Tan y-bwlch. At the former, near the celebrated salmon leap, the great road from Caernarvon to the south entered this county, and the portion of it between the two places was extremely difficult to pass. The traveller was necessitated either to climb alpine staircases; or what was equally unpleasant and dangerous, to seek a guide to conduct him by the circuitous route over the Traeth mawr sands: and as this could only be effected at ebb tides, he was often detained for a day, or night. This obstruction has now been removed, by forming a new road from the

* All the roads branching from Dolgelleu, are at length put in a respectable state of repair.

the bridge to Tan y bwlch. This winding round the mountain upon various levels, and from the beauty and grandeur of the surrounding scenery, is now considered as one of the most pleasant and diversified rides in the Principality. This grand link connects a chain of roads, through the whole extent of Wales from the head of Holy Cybi, in the north, to that of the patron saint David, in the south,

Woods and Plantations.—Leland observes, that several parts of the county, in his time had 'meately good plenty of wood;' so that this product of the county must have failed as well as agriculture been neglected. But the failure in this respect is more easily accounted for, than the retrograde state of husbandry; an art and practice so intimately connected with the necessaries of life. Respecting the former, avarice will easily solve the difficulty. Though this might at a subsequent period 'been once as naked of woods, as any in Wales; yet it is certainly at present better clad. A spirit of planting has for years pervaded the breasts of the great landholders, and still continues to increase the sylvan beauty of the county. Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, lord Powys, sir Edward Price Lloyd, Mr. York, and many others employ professed woodmen to see the fences of their rising woods complete to guard against the depredations of cattle; and to see that they are constantly thinned, so that the standards shall partake of all the requisite benefits of light, heat, and a free circulation of air. This is a practice which every proprietor of extensive woodlands should adopt, if he wishes to have fine timber, and thus increase the value of his estate. Considerable improvements have been lately made by new plantations, and the comot of Edernion particularly described by Leland as 'the best woddid of al Merionethshire' after having been stripped of its choicest ornament, now resumes a dress suitable to its other beauties. The late Colonel Salisbury well clothed the demesne of Rûg; Plas Edernion estate, the property of the late Bell Lloyd, esq. received similar attention; and Dr. Thackery recently received

the gold medal from the Society for the encouragement of Arts for his very extensive plantations, in this, and the, adjoining county of Denbigh.

Of its MANUFACTURES little can be said here, as they will be noticed at the two principal places where they are carried on. They principally consist of woollen goods, such as strong cloths, druggets, kersymeres, flannels, stockings, gloves, wigs, &c. made of the country wool, furnished by the numerous and extensive sheep walks.

The DIVISIONS of the county have changed at different periods. Merioneth, under the Welsh princes, formed a third part of Gwynedd, consisting of three cantrevs, and each cantrev containing three comots. Thus described by sir John Price.*

"Cantref Meyrian hath three comots, Talybont, Pennal and Istamaner.

Cantref Arustly had these, Vwchcved, Iscoed, and Gwarthrenium.

Cantref Penllyn had these, Vwchmeloch, Ismeloch, and Michaint."

The account given by Vaughan of Hengwrt differs from the above. "This shire hath in it two whole cantreds, besides the commots of Ardudwy, Edeirnan and Mowddwy; that is Cantref Meirionydd, and Cantref Penllyn:

Cantref Merionydd containeth two commots, Estumaner and Talybont.

The cantred of Penllyn had in it three commots, Uwch Melock, and Ismeloch and Migneint: but now all these three make but one comot, which is divided into the bailiwicks of Uwch Frewerm, and Istrewerm.†" Anciently it consisted of three cantrefs, viz. Meirion, Penllyn, and Arwystli; but the latter lying to the south of the river Dyfi, was by Henry the eighth annexed to Montgomeryshire; and in its stead the comots of

* Description of Cambria.

† Sketch of the history of Merionethshire.

of Mowddwy Edernion and Glyndyfrdwy were detached from Powysland and added to Merionydd.' This having been incorporated or classed as one—The county now is divided into five comots commonly called hundreds, viz. *Ardwdwy, Penllyn, Estumaner, Edernion,* and *Talybont.* It contains thirty seven parishes, and five market towns, viz. Harlech, Bala, Dolgelleu, Dinas y mowddu, and Corwen; Tywen or Towyn and Barmouth have lately aspired to the same distinction.

By the returns made to Parliament in 1801 the number of houses was 5787, and the population appears to have amounted to 29,506; of which 2711 were represented as employed in trade, manufactures, or other handicraft business; and 10,308 in agrieulture. This county, as to its ecclesiastical government is included within the diocese of Bangor; and returns one member, viz. a knight of the shire, to the Imperial Parliament.

HARLECH,

A small poor place, though the county town, is remarkable for nothing, but its *castle.* From Roman coins having been discovered, and a golden torques, this is conjectured to have been a fortified post of the Romans, to defend the openings of the two Traeths, and secure a communication with the opposite shore. But this opinion rests upon mere conjecture. It was certainly an early British post. The fortress was anciently called *Twr Bronwen,* from Bronwen, or the fair-necked, sister to Bren ap Llyr, duke of Cornwall, and subsequently king of Britain. In the eleventh century it obtained the denomination of *Caer Collwyn,* from Collwyn ap Tango, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, lord of Efionydd Ardudwy, and part of Llyn. He lived in the time of Anarawd, about A. D. 877, and resided in a square tower of the original building, the remains of which are still very apparent; as are parts of the old walls, the more modern work in places resting upon them.

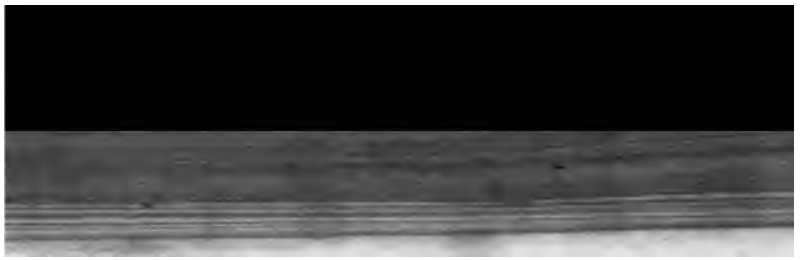
According to some of the British historians, Harlech castle was built by Maelgwyn Gwynedd, prince of North Wales about the year 350; and it is the general opinion that Edward the first, erected the present castle upon the ruins of the former. This opinion is well founded, for the characteristics of the structure, aided by historic documents, confirm it. The castle bears evident marks of being the performance of the same architect, who built the other castles for that monarch in Wales. It appears to have been completed before the year 1283; for Hugh de Wlonkeslow was the constable, with the annual allowance of one hundred pounds. The salary was, however, subsequently reduced to fifty pounds, and this was only received, when he was invested with the double office of constable of the castle, and captain of the town; and when he was divested of the latter, he was paid but twenty six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence. At that time the garrison consisted of twenty soldiers, whose pay amounted to one hundred and forty pounds per annum.* Even so late as the forty fourth year of Elizabeth the constable's allowance was no more than fifty pounds, and the garrison included twenty four men.†

In the year 1404 this castle, with that of Cardigan, were suddenly seized by the great, but ambitious Owen Glyndwr, during the rebellion he excited against his lawful sovereign, Henry the fourth. But they were four years afterwards retaken by an English army, the King had hastily dispatched into Wales, to suppress the formidable insurrection.‡

Margaret of Anjou, the spirited queen of Henry the sixth after having escaped the grasp of lord Stanley, subsequent to the King's defeat at Northampton, found in this fortress an asylum from her pursuers; till invited by her adherents in Scotland

* Doddridge's Hist. Account, &c.
† Cottonian MSS. Vitellius, C. 1.
‡ Carte's Hist. of England. Vol. II. p. 661.

HARLECH CASTLE.
North Wales



land, she was able to take the field, and near Wakefield defeated the enemy, and destroyed the leader.

On the accession of Edward the fourth to the throne, he soon became master of every part of the kingdom, except two or three strongholds in Northumberland, and Harlech castle in Wales. This was possessed by Dafydd ap Jevan ap Einion, a firm friend of the Lancastrian party, and equally distinguished by his great valour, as his large stature. In spite of intreaties and menaces, he held out, after the coronation of Edward, nine years, till the year 1468. Finding the governor determined to continue the resistance, the King was at length compelled to send an army against him, under the command of William Herbert earl of Pembroke. The English general, after leading his men with incredible difficulties through rough defiles of the British Alps, where they had to climb up crags, and in other places to precipitate themselves down precipices, invested the place. The conducting the siege Pembroke committed to his brother, sir Richard, a hero described as equal in size and military prowess to the British commandant. The general sent a peremptory summons for the surrender of the place, to which the governor promptly replied, "I held a tower in France, till all the old women in Wales heard of it; and now the old women of France shall hear how I defended the Welsh castle."* The assailing army, after a long siege, found the place was so strong both by nature, and art, as only to be reduced by means of famine. Sir Richard was under the necessity, therefore, of compounding for its surrender, by promising the heroic defender to intercede with his royal master for life and liberty. This promise he afterwards religiously fulfilled. The place was surrendered upon honourable terms; and Richard interceded with the King, in behalf of the governor, requiring for him an unconditional pardon, on the ground, that had he chosen to have been obstinate, the castle might have held out much longer, in

* Hist. of the Gwyder Family.

you please to take him out."*

During the civil wars, this fortress more
masters. It was ably defended by sir Hug
serted by his men; when it fell into the hand
tarian forces; was again repossessed by the l
taken in March 1647 by a force under ge
the time of its last surrender the governor w
Owen; and the whole garrison consisted of
It had the honour of being the last in Wal
for the King; as it appears to have been th
for the house of Lancaster. The present c
bert Vaughan bart.

Situated on a lofty perpendicular rock, ov
on which side it was utterly unassailable
the other by a prodigious wide and deep
mense expence through the solid rock, it
use of cannon have been impregnable. T
exhibits a noble square building, with a cir
corner, and one bastion on each side the gr
way, with elegant machicolated turrets, issu
rounders, similar to those of Caernarvon a
however going fast to decay, and the hoar
in roaring surge at the base of the rock
seem to perform its parting dirge.

The *town*, though made a free borough b

grants, and immunities. It is now reduced to a very humble village, consisting of a few miserable looking cottages, little better than huts; nor are there any desirable, or sufficient accommodations for decent travellers; so that persons coming from Barmouth, which is the usual route, if they mean to proceed to Beddgelert towards Caernarvon, are under the painful necessity of waiting the proper state of tide, without comfort, for passing the sands; or proceed by a circuitous route over the mountains to Tan y bwlch.

The population appears to have been so small, as not to be an object of separate enumeration, for it is not included in the census of 1801.

Respecting the celebrated piece of antiquity, denominated a *torques*, dug up in a garden near this place about the year 1692, a long disquisition is given by Camden, from which it does not clearly appear, whether it was a Roman, or British relique; such kind of ornaments having been used by Romans, Gauls, and Britons. According to the description given by him, "It is a wreathed bar of gold, or rather perhaps three, or four rods, jointly twisted, about four foot long; flexile, but bending naturally only one way, in form of a hatband; hooked at both ends exactly (that I may describe it intelligibly, though in vulgar terms) like a pair of pot hooks: but those hooks are not twisted as the rest of the rod, nor are their ends sharp, but plain, and, as it were, cut even. It is of a round form about six inches in circumference, and weighs eight ounces, and is all over so plain, that it needs no farther description.* The rise appears to have been that of a baldric, to suspend the quiver of chieftains, or men of rank, so as to hang in a graceful manner behind, by means of the hook; while the golden wreath passing over one shoulder, crossed diagonally the breast. In the beautiful description given by Virgil, when speaking of the ex-

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 786.

ercises among the Trojan youths, alludes to this mode of wearing their quivers,

"Cornea bina ferunt præfixo hastilia ferro,
Pars læves humero pharetras, it pectore summo
Flexilis abtorto percollum circulus auri."*

They were bestowed among the Romans, according to the account of Pliny, as military rewards for great exploits; and that the etiquet was to award to citizens torques formed of silver, and to the auxiliaries the same composed of gold. This curious antique is preserved among other valuable instruments in the Mostyn library at Tremostyn Hall.

A very extraordinary phenomenon related by Camden, said to have happened here, A. D. 1624 is still strong in the traditional recollection of the people. It was a mephitic vapour that rose, from the sea, commencing from the shore of Morfa Vychan, near Cricceith.

It extended itself in every direction for several miles, carrying devastation and dismay wherever it came. It set fire to numerous hay ricks, appeared like a blue lambent flame, but did not injure persons exposed to it. It so infected the herbage in many places, that numbers of the cattle died, and the mischief attendant upon it constantly happened in the night: it continued its depredations for eight months. It was observed in stormy, as well as calm nights; in all weathers; and any great noise, as the sounding of horns, or the firing of guns, would disperse and extinguish the flame.

The following letter from Mr. Jones to the author of the Britannia will tend farther to elucidate this phenomenon:

"Sir,

"This Letter contains no answer to your queries about the Locusts, for I am wholly intent at present upon giving you the

* Æneid. Lib. V.

the best account I can, of a most dismal and prodigious accident at Harlech in this County, the beginning of these Holidays. It is, of the unaccountable firing of sixteen Ricks of Hay, and two Barns, whereof one was full of Corn, the other of Hay. I call it unaccountable, because it is evident they were not burnt by common fire, but by a kindled exhalation which was often seen to come from the Sea. Of the duration whereof I cannot at present give you any certain account, but I am satisfy'd it lasted at least a fortnight or three weeks; and annoyed the Country as well by poisoning the Grass, as, firing the Hay, for the space of a mile or thereabouts. Such as have seen the fire, say it was a blue weak flame, easily extinguished, and that it did not the least harm to any of the men who interpos'd their endeavours to save the Hay, tho' they ventur'd (perceiving it different from common fire) not only close to it, but sometimes into it. All the damage that was sustain'd happen'd constantly in the night. I have enclosed a catalogue of such as I have received certain information of: and have nothing to add, but that there are three small Tenements, in the same neighbourhood (call'd Tydhin Siôn Wyn) the grass of which was so infected, that it absolutely killed all manner of Cattle that fed upon it. The Grass has been infectious these three years, but not thoroughly fatal till this last. Pray send me with all convenient speed, your friend's thoughts and your own, of the causes, and if possible, also the remedy, of this surprizing phænomenon, &c."*

The annotator of Camden conjectured, that it might have proceeded from the putrefaction of a number of locusts, which were observed to have visited the coasts about that time, and were suddenly destroyed by the coldness of the climate. For he observes, that a considerable number of them had been seen lying on the shores near Aberdaron in Caernarvonshire. Instances of their appearance and sudden death causing pestilen-

* Gibson's Camden, Vol. II. p. 788.

tial vapours in many places, have been adduced by writers of the greatest veracity. Mouffet * gives an account of a plague in Lombardy, about the year 591, occasioned by the fall of numerous locusts, which vitiated the air to such a degree, that upwards of eighty thousand men and cattle died by the infection. Otho Trisingensis mentions a dreadful pestilence, attended with a grievous mortality, that happened in France in the year 1374, occasioned by locusts drowned in the channel, and afterwards cast upon the coasts. Without entering into a disquisition upon the causes assigned by Pliny, for the contagion, arising out of certain bodies, 'multa contacta adurunt,' from the infrequency of those eastern insects, as visitants on the western or northern coasts; the conjecture appears more probable, that it might have proceeded from vast shoals of herrings, driven in by whales on the strand, and there permitted to putrefy. Animal bodies in a state of decomposition, it is well known to modern chemists, emit a vast quantity of hydrogenous gas, which is itself highly pernicious to animal life; and mixed with a small quantity of oxygen, becomes highly inflammable. This combination, whenever it meets with a small quantity of electric matter, will instantly explode. A continuance of the same causes would produce a continuance of the effects, till the substances were decomposed, or, as it is commonly termed, exhausted. The period of its duration was probably not so long as stated by the common people; because it is the nature of fear, for consternation to remain, long after the objects of it are removed.

The vicinity of Harlech abounds with numerous monumental remains, more particularly such as have been esteemed referable to the Bardic system, or Druidical religion. On the ascent of a precipitous hill, and on the summit, are several circles formed of loose stones placed at certain intervals. Of these some are single, others concentric, one circle being inscribed within a second;

* Theatre des Insects.

second; in other places they intersect each other, forming nearly an ellipsis. They are of different diameters. One of the double kind, on an elevated moor overlooking the town, is thirty yards, and one of still larger dimensions surrounds it, at a considerable comparative distance. Most are furnished with *maeni hirion*, or large upright stones, one of which is generally placed in the centre. It might have been doubted, whether they had not been the foundations of *Cyttiau'r Gwyddelod*, or cottages of the wood rangers; a kind of temporary huts, erected by our remote ancestors, for the purposes of affording them occasional protection, during their hunting excursions. But the form, particularly the intersections, militates against such a conjecture. A respectable writer supposes it more than probable, the greater number have been the work of shepherds, as an amusement for filling up their leisure hours, while tending their flocks; or to clear land for the sake of pasturage. "I suspect that many of our Druid antiquaries are by far too sanguine in their favourite pursuit, and that they attribute to religious uses what was originally intended only for private advantage. A profusion of learning has been expended upon *carnedds* of Wales, when I am convinced, that many of those heaps of stones, were put together for no other reason than that the rest of the field might afford a clearer pasture." Yet after observing, that he had noticed 'modern carnedds,' which had been thrown up by the industrious part of the community, for such an advantageous purpose; he cannot help admitting, that some plausible reason exists for considering other monumental piles to be of a different description. "I pass no reflection on the single monuments, or on the circular upright stones, which abound in most parts of the country. These perhaps may deserve notice; but a stranger would scarcely make them the principal object of his tour: as they will not bear a comparison with Stonehenge and Avebury; either in magnitude, or regularity of design."*

In

* A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales, p. 142.

In deference to such an authority, as Mr. Windham, it may be stated from the form and appearance of many such monuments, they have been Druidical circles, in which were anciently held the Bardic meetings, termed Gorseddau, already described in the introductory part of Cambria. The learned Borlase adduces several instances of such circles, in the vicinity of Botallek in the county of Cornwall; and which he conjectures could not have been formed for any other, than religious rites; and while one ceremony was being performed in one particular circle others might have been proceeding in the respective circles; and the different compartments contained in each.

Cwm Bychan, a narrow grassy dell, simply opens with a small pool or lake, called *Llyn y cwm* bychan. And though the valley is not a mile in length, yet it is encompassed with scenery as black and dreary as imagination could conceive; and which might bid defiance to the pencil of a Salvator Rosa to delineate. Among the craggy and impending craigs, *Carreg y saeth*, or the rock of the arrow, so denominated, as it is said, from having been a station taken by some ancient British sportsmen, for watching and killing the red deer, then abounding in this part of the country, towers above the rest in dismal grandeur. From another, by the side of the lake, the rugged beauties of this romantic hollow may be seen to the greatest advantage. Hence the landscape appears extending in great magnificence. The small valley is embosomed with stupendous, and in some instances perpendicular rocks, barren, having their darksome appearance here and there enlivened by patches of meagre vegetation, springing out of the ledges of their precipitous sides. On the other side of the mountain a vast hollow, called *Bwlch tyddiad*, seems to form a fine accompaniment to these scenes of desolation and sterility. The sequestered spot of Cwm Bychan is the property of a family by the name of Llwyd, who derive their descent from Cynfyn, prince of North Wales and Powys, and with their ancestors, boast of having been in possession of this small territory for near eight centuries. The mo-

sion

sion is a genuine specimen of the seats of the ancient Welsh gentry; the furniture equally rude; and the mode of living consonant to the nature of the soil, and the circumstances of the place. Environed by lofty mountains, and the adjacent parts being inaccessible a considerable part of the year, by reason of drifted snows, the winter stock of provision must necessarily be laid in, previous to its commencement. Descending the adjoining mountainous ridge, an ancient arch thrown from rock to rock over a dark and deep water, excites a gloom, that is quickly relieved by the sight of a mill on a collateral rock; accessible only by a truly alpine bridge over the rivulet, which supplies the water for a small overshot wheel. A few venerable oaks, with the rapid torrent foaming over ledges of rocks, give additional zest to the romantic scenery. Ascending a hill denominated, *Dinas Porchellyn*, from having been a fortified post, the horizon stretches far distant, exhibiting a wild space of rocky mountains and desert heaths. Yet even these denudated tracts, unfavourable as they may now appear to vegetation, had doubtless once been crowned with the pride of the forest; a few of his descendants still surviving as mementos of their departed ancestors; while numerous stools whisper, fuimus, we once constituted a noble forest.

This pass and that of *Drws Ardudwy* were anciently fortified, and at times occupied by the contending Welsh chieftains. They are at the entrance of a district still called *Ardudwy*. *Drws Ardudwy*, or the door of Ardudwy, is one of those openings;* through the vast ridges of elevated land, which intersect this country in almost every direction; and form the only means of communication between the districts, lying on their opposite sides. To those unacquainted with alpine countries, no adequate conception can be formed, even from the most accurate description, or delineation, of the formidable appearance these

* In Wales these are generally denominated *Bwlchs*, that is, gaps, or defiles through the mountain barriers.

these passes present to the wayfaring traveller. The one here mentioned exhibits a scene naturally adapted to inspire the most heroic mind with apprehension, and the timid with terror. Indeed the horror at first excited by viewing the ascent and descent, far exceeds the most conceivable gloomy idea. The sides of the confronting parts of the chasm indicate, that the extensive ridge has at some remote period, been by one of nature's convulsions rent into a thousand precipices, whose tops form ledges, similar to shelves, tier above tier, till they terminate in the rugged summits. The sides and bottom are covered with huge loose stones, imbedded in a deluge of others of a smaller size, apparently fragments detached either by frosts, or the irresistible rushing torrents, which frequently descend the mountains after storms, from the impending heights. The road is a narrow horse-path on the side of the slippery rock, made by the removal of a few of the fragments in some places; in others it assumes the form of narrow flights of steps, composed of the larger stones constituting a most steep and hazardous ascent, or descent; which, in despite of every effort of reason and judgement, must incite the unpleasing sensations of alarm and terror.

Between this pass, and Cors y gedol are two small lakes, or rather pools, for no higher title do they justly merit, celebrated for the contents of their waters. *Llyn Bodlyn* lies beneath an abrupt precipice, abounds with char-fish and affords in the season great diversion to the lovers of angling. *Lly cwm Howel* is noted for a species of trout, mentioned by Giraldus as a most monstrous kind, found in some of the Cambrian lakes. They certainly differ from all others of the genus, having thick, flatted and toad shaped heads with several other marks of deformity.*

On the plain in which these, and another small lake, called *Llyn*

* For a particular account of this and others of singular formation see a dissertation on some Cambrian fish, published in the LXIV. volume of the Philosophical Transactions.

Llyn Irddin are numerous druidical remains, forming a very rare group of this class of antiquities. First appear two circles, formed of loose stones; one about fifty-six feet in diameter and the other of smaller dimensions, both have large upright stones placed at intervals among the lesser ones. Half a mile from these are two carnedds of prodigious size, on the side of a hill. At the east end is a large cromlech composed of two incumbent stones, one placed over the edge of the other, resting upon five uprights, in an inclining position: the highest end of which measures seven feet from the ground, and the lowest near five. Near this is another carnedd, or heap of stones; and in, or rather upon it, is a large cromlech supported by upright stones; a little further on the same heap is another most magnificent cromlech, the tabular stone being twelve feet long, by nine broad. Four maeni hirion, or upright columns, from the height of ten feet, to twelve feet eight, accompany these cromlechs; three have fallen and one still retains its erect position. Several of those supposed religious vessels called *cistiau vaen*, or stone chests, are seen lying around. Perhaps in no part of Britain is there still remaining such an assemblage of relicks belonging to druidical rites and customs as are found in this place, and the adjacent parts.

In passing this dreary waste the traveller's attention will be arrested by other antiquities of a military complexion. *Craig y ddinas*, a conical hill, having its summits surrounded by a vast heap of rough stones, which form rude ramparts for the defence of the inclosed plain at top, is generally supposed to have been an ancient British fortified post, so early as the time of the Roman invasion. It has an oblique entrance with stone facings, and near it are two similar stone ramparts. The situation lies upon the extreme verge of a mountain adjoining one of those narrow passes, which form defiles into the interior of the country. On another elevated site, at no great distance, is *Castell ddinas Cortin*, an entrenched camp, having an advanced work in front. These fortifications it is highly probable were raised for the

protection of the monuments of British superstition in the vicinity; for on the plain beneath are several druidical remains, such as Cromlechs, Carnedds, stone circles, Meini hirion or upright stones. It is observable, though the cause has not been assigned, that the cromlechs in this part of Wales differ, as to form, from those found in Anglesea. The latter having the tabular stone inclining; while those of the former are generally in a horizontal position. At a small distance off the fifth mile stone from Harlech to Barmouth, a little out of the road, are two cromlechs near each other; and singularly placed on barrows or carnedds, or formed of loose stones. The latter indicate, that some persons of note were interred beneath; and from the superincumbent structures they must have been of high antiquity. As to the mode of forming these carnedds, and the intent of raising such rude heaps of stones, different conjectures have been given, and various reasons assigned. A plausible opinion is, that the original intention of heaping stones over the dead, was doubtless to prevent the bodies from being scratched up and mangled, or devoured by wolves, those notorious resurrection men, a race of voracious animals that abounded in the wild and mountainous parts of Britain, and other thinly inhabited countries, in ancient times. It is a traditional opinion, that when the carnedd was considered as the tomb of some honourable warrior, or hero, slain in battle, every passing stranger threw upon it an additional stone, as a mark of decided respect; but when such marks of proud distinction became disgraced, by shielding the remains of the coward, or the guilty tyrant, the custom still continued of each individual passing, to cast a stone, which, in the latter case, was flung as a token of detestation.

Cors y Gedel, an ancient seat of the *Vaughans*, is now the property of *Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart.* Little appertains to the mansion worthy of particular notice, except the noble woods, with which it is environed. These abounding with large timber, are to such a degree affected by the strong westerly winds blowing

blowing from the ocean, that the tops of the trees are so stunted as to wear the appearance of being regularly shorn; similar to the famous wood of Margam in Glamorganshire. From the high land above Cors y gedol a good view is obtained at ebb-tide of *Sarn Badrwyg*, or the ship-breaking cause way: so called from the dangers, which vessels are in, that approach this sunken reef of stones at full and half tide. It is an artificial work, running out south westerly far into the sea, about twenty-four feet thick. *Sarn y Bwch*, which extends from a point north west of Harlech, is supposed to have met the end of this, within which boundary, or embankment, was comprised formerly a rich tract of land called *Cantref Gwaelod* or the low-land hundred, well stocked and inhabited. The names of several towns are still preserved in the traditions of the Welsh, and the disaster is finely depicted in a beautiful elegiac poem, descriptive of the melancholy event.

About the year 500 it is said at the time Gwydno Goranbir was lord of the territory, one of the wards of the sea-defence through intoxication, neglected the necessary precautions at the flood-gates in the dam, when the sea rushed through with such force as to blow up part of the wall, and overflow the whole hundred, which remains in the same inundated state to the present hour. An accident of this kind happened at some remote period on the coast of Essex. For it is a fact, that the usual prebend given to the canons of St. Paul's in London, to qualify them for becoming residentiaries, is, "the *Prebenda consumpta per mare.*"

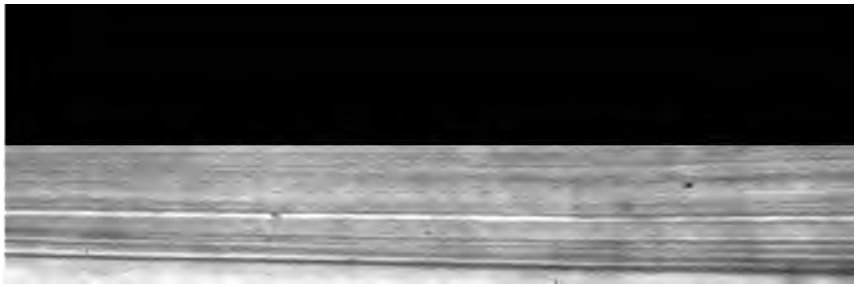
In a field by the side of the road, near the village of Llanbedr, are two upright uninscribed stones of that class of remains, denominated by the Welsh, *Meini gwyr*, or the stones of heroes; and by most considered as the funeral monuments of celebrated warriors, who fell in battle.

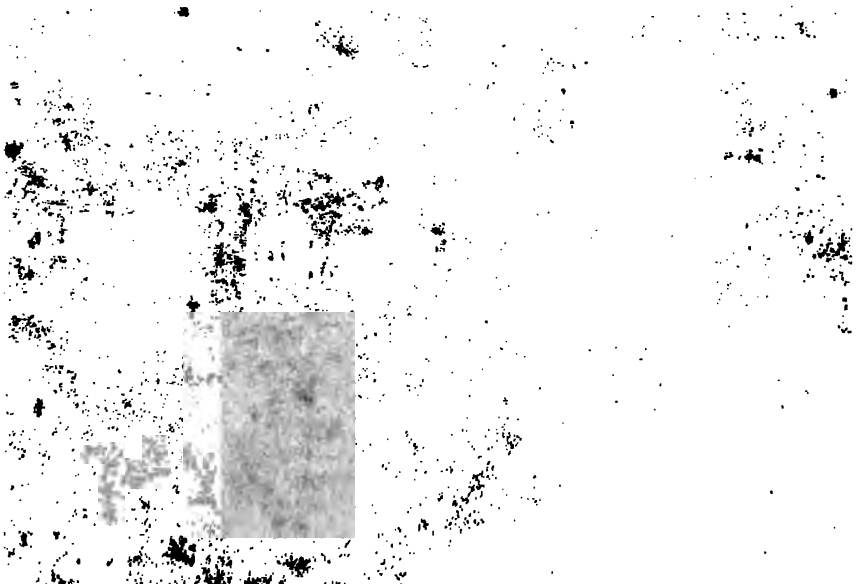
BARMOUTH.

Mawddoch, here called Afon river, winds delightfully among the mountains, having many and elegant promontories on its margin, which rise to a considerable height on each side; some clad with dense woods, and others exhibiting naked rocks, or partially and scantily covered with the purple-flowered heath. In the back ground, towering above the mountains which seem like advanced guards, soars in clouds the mighty bifurcated Cader Idris. Barmouth to Dolgelleu, ten miles, is perhaps as delightful a ride as any in the kingdom. The river forms an arch of the sea, and when the estuary is full of water, the scenes which present themselves for some miles are truly picturesque. In the composition of the different views, scarcely any thing can be conceived wanting; every requisite for fine landscape; mountain and valley, rocks, meadows, woods, water, are here grouped, and arranged in the most beautiful order. Beyond the beach the road, made at a vast expense, by blowing up the rocks, runs along the shelf of one vast mountain, that impends over it for about two miles: when it winds among the low hills at a small distance from the river, which from different openings and eminences appears partly hidden by intervening mountains, and often assumes the appearance of a beautiful lake.

DOLGELLEU,

Though a small market-town, is in several respects the principal in the county, from the summer sessions being held here, and being a manufacturing place, and a mart for the sale of various articles in the clothing line, brought from the adjacent parts. It is situated in a fertile vale, between the rivers Arran and Wnion, and surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains many of which are well wooded. The name is derived from *dol*, a word similar to dale so common in Scotland and the north of England, and *gelli*, or *celli*, a grove of hazle-trees. The town contains little worthy of observation. The streets are very irregular, the houses principally small, and most are ill built.





habitants have had little occasion to send to such a distant market. Another article in the Kerseymere line has recently been added to the list of the manufactures of the place. The number of hands necessarily employed in these departments, have rendered the place very populous, comparatively with other towns in the county. By the census in 1801 the number of houses returned was 630, and the population 2949. But since that period the trade has been more flourishing, and the number of inhabitants greatly increased.

The whole of the vale in which the town is situated is remarkable for its beautiful views, and picturesque landscapes. It has been observed; 'there is no place in the principality whence so many pleasing and interesting excursions may be made; and where nature bears so rich, varied, and grand an aspect, as at Dolgelleu. The ride to Dinas y Mowddwy, and thence to Bala over the mountains, and back through the vale, in which the river Dee takes its rise, affords much fine scenery:' and it may be added that in every direction views and objects, as diversified as they are multifarious, present themselves in every direction; so that the tourist will advantageously make this a kind of central station for embracing opportunities of investigation.

NANNAU, the seat of *Sir Robert Williams Vaughan*, bart. is situated on an elevated spot two miles from Dolgelleu. The house, lately built by the present worthy and respected possessor, is a substantial and elegant structure; and being placed on a more eligible site than the old mansion, commands more pleasing views. From the circumstance of the road leading to it being upon a continual ascent, it has been supposed 'to stand higher than any gentleman's house in Britain.' The *park* is well wooded and remarkable for a very small kind of deer, which make excellently fine flavoured venison. Inclosed in the garden is a venerable oak, pierced and hollowed by the hand of time, and in the last state of decay. The girth is twenty seven feet, and a half. The name *Derwen Cenbren yr Ellyll*,

the hollow oak, the haunt of dæmons, may lead the fancy into visionary scenes: and the illuded eye may see Dryads and Hamadryads, with other fairy tribes, revelling round its antiquated trunk.

Above Nannau rises a lofty rocky eminence having the summit encircled with a rampart, formed of loose stones, evidently a British post, called *Moel Orthrwm*, or the hill of oppression.

DINAS MOWDDWY.

This small market-town is pleasantly situated at the junction of three vales, flanked by lofty mountains, on the shelf of a rock called, craig y ddinas, near the margin of the small river Cerris, at its conflux with the Dovey. The road winds round the declivity of the mountain in a circular direction, and the streets take a similar curve; so that at a distance it assumes the appearance of a town suspended upon the side of a mountain. The returns under the population act were made with those of the parish of Llan Mowddwy, in which it is comprised. The number of houses is forty five, and the inhabitants about five times as many. The buildings consist of mud cottages one story high, with rush-clad roofs; and not enlivened by white-washing, as in other parts, the place wears but a gloomy aspect.

This was formerly a place of greater consequence; it having been a fortified city, and the residence of a chieftain. Anciently endowed with considerable privileges, it still retains the insignia of power, the maces, standard measure, stocks, whipping post, and the *fag fawr*, or great fetter. It is the capital of an extensive lordship, including this parish, and seven out of the eight townships comprised in that of Mallwyd. The corporation consists of a mayor, aldermen, recorder, and several burgesses. The mayor possesses the right of trying criminals; but of late years this privilege has not been exercised. The mayor and aldermen however retain the exclusive power of granting

granting licences to victuallers in their district; and are likewise justices of the peace for the extent of their little region. The recorder, in absence of the manorial lord, tries all causes relative to property, not exceeding forty shillings; and the attornies of the court are chosen out of the lettered part of the community.

Mallwyd is a small village between the salient angles of three abrupt mountains, Arran, Camlin, and Moel dyfi. Its situation in a small valley watered by a fine river, and surrounded with most romantic and delightful scenery, obtains general admiration. In the church yard are several yew trees of extraordinary girth. But one surpasses in beauty the celebrated tree at Aldworth in Berkshire; it is a sort of a grove of trees, issuing from one stem, forming an extensive shade, and exhibiting a most magnificent appearance. The scenery, which ever way the eye turns, is prodigiously fine. The mountains here form a grand natural amphitheatre having sylvan sides; amidst which peeps here and there a white-washed cottage. Camlin rises immediately with rude grandeur on the right; and the conical Arran lifts its resplendent head to the left. Through the opening of the mountains the diminished perspective of the distant vale appears, as though seen through a camera obscura. A cataract at Pont Fallwyd in the foreground, with its concomitant appendages, is peculiarly fine. The river, impatient to rush through a confined rocky channel, foams against a high slate rock, rising in the centre of the bed, dashes into the pool beneath, and hastens then in hoarse meanders to meet the estuary of the Dovey.

Cader Idris, the majestic father of the Merionethshire mountains, which literally lifts its bifid head and black precipices above the clouds, rises majestically from the margin of the beautiful lake of Talyllyn. The ascent to the top, and the views obtained from the summit, are thus described by an observant traveller:

"A small lake, called Llyn y gader, lies about a mile and

half on the high road to Towyn, which having arrived at, we quitted the road, and began our ascent at the first step of this lofty mountain, when we had surmounted the exterior ridge, we descended a little to a deep clear lake, which is kept constantly full by the numerous tributary torrents that fall down the surrounding rocks; hence we climbed a second and still higher chain up a steep but not difficult track, over numerous fragments of rock detached from the higher parts: we now came to a second and more elevated lake, clear as glass, and overlooked by steep cliffs in such a manner as to resemble the crater of a volcano, of which a most accurate representation is to be seen in Wilson's excellent view of Cader Idris. Some travellers have mentioned the finding lava and other volcanic productions here; upon a strict examination, however, we were unable to discover any thing of the kind, nor did the water of the lake appear to differ in any respect from the purest rock water, though it was tried repeatedly with the most delicate chemical tests. A clear, loud, and distant echo, repeats every shock that is made near the lake. We now begin our last and most difficult ascent up the summit of Cader Idris itself, which, when we had surmounted, we came to a small plain with two rocky heads of nearly equal heights, one looking to the north, and the other to the south: we made choice of that which appeared to us the most elevated, and seated ourselves on its highest pinnacle, to rest after a laborious ascent of three hours. We were now high above all the eminences within this vast expanse, and as the clouds gradually cleared away, caught some grand views of the surrounding country. The huge rocks which we before looked up to with astonishment, were far below at our feet, and many a small lake appeared in the vallies between them; to the north, Snowdon with its dependencies shut up the scene; on the west we saw the whole curve of the bay of Cardigan, bounded at a vast distance by the Caernarvon mountains, and nearer, dashing its white breakers against the rocky coasts of Merioneth, the southern horizon was bounded by Plinlimmon,

limmon, and at the east the eye glanced over the lake of Bala, the two Arennig mountains, the two Arrans, the long chain of the Ferwyn mountains, to the Breiddin hills on the confines of Shropshire; and dimly, in the distant horizon, was beheld the Wreakin, rising alone from the plain of Salop. Having at last satisfied our curiosity, and being thoroughly chilled by the keen air of these elevated regions, we began to descend down the side opposite to that which we had come up. The first stage led us to another beautiful mountain lake, whose cold clear waters discharge their superabundance in a full stream down the side of the mountain; all these waters abound with trout; and in some is found the gwyniad, a fish particular to rocky alpine lakes; following the course of the stream, we came on the edge of the craggy cliffs that overlook Talyllyn lake; a long and difficult descent conducted us at last on the borders of Talyllyn, where we entered the Dolgelle road.

The mountain of Cader Idris, in height the second in all Wales, rises on the sea shore, close upon the northern side of the estuary of the small river Disynwy, about a mile above Towyn, it proceeds with almost a constant ascent, first northward for about three miles, then for ten miles farther runs E. N. E. giving out from its summit a branch nearly three miles long, in a south-westerly direction, parallel to the main ridge. It is very steep and craggy on every side; but the southern descent, especially to the border of Talyllyn lake, is the most precipitous, being nearly perpendicular. Its breadth bears but a small proportion to its length; a line passing along its base and intersecting the summit would scarcely equal four miles and a half; and in the other parts it is a mere ridge, whose base hardly ever exceeds one mile in breadth. The peak is said to be 2850 feet above Dolgelle.* Cader Idris is the beginning of a chain of primitive mountains, extending in a N. N. easterly direction, and including the Arrans and the Arennigs. It is much loftier and

* Pennant's Snowdonia, p. 89.

and more craggy than the slates and secondary mountains which surround it, and consists of,

1. Siliceous porphyry in mass; intersected by veins of quartz.

2. Siliceous schistose, porphyry, intersected by veins of quartz.

3. Argillaceous porphyry, in mass.

4. Granitell (of Kirwan) in mass, composed of quartz and schorl."*

The vale of Talyllyn, though confined, is not destitute of beauty. It consists of rich meadows, through which meanders a fine rivulet, issuing from the lake, that soon has its confluence with the ocean. The valley is flanked by lofty mountains, whose declivous sides are adorned with verdant and sylvan clothing. The termination is highly picturesque. The lake here nearly fills the valley, so as to leave only a road on one side, and then contracts gradually into the form of a river, rushing under a bridge of one arch, through a narrow defile, on one side of which stands the church, and on the other cottages, intermingled with trees.

In a flat called Towyn Meireonydd, watered by the river Dysynwy, that falls into the sea a few miles to the north of Llanfihangel y Pennant, rises an immense rock with a very contracted top. Here once stood a castle, evidently from the present remains of great strength. It appears to have extended longitudinally, over the whole surface of the summit. One apartment, thirty-six feet in diameter, was cut out of the rock. In some parts the lines of circumvallation consisted of stones, loosely piled on the edges of the precipices. The other sides were defended by well built walls of squared stones, cemented with mortar, composed of calcined shells, and gravel. The whole is now almost invisible, being overrun with weeds and bushes. Mr. Pennant conjectures this fortress was the *Castle Bere*, committed to the custody of Robert Fitzwalter, who obtained

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c. p. 51.

tained a grant at the same time for hunting all kinds of animals, feræ naturæ, in this county, by king Edward the first. He also, from the name, *Teberri*, supposes it probable, it might be the one, belonging to the last Llewelyn, which was taken a short time previous to the final conquest of Wales by William de Valence, earl of Pembroke. But this militates against facts, for long prior to that period, the unfortunate Prince had been reduced to a small region, comprising little more than the district denominated Snowdonia; in which Leland, alluding to the event, describes the castle to be situated. "Anno D. 1284 comes Pembrochiæ castrum de Bere, quod erat Leolini principis cepit. Hoc factum est ante pontem confectum *super Meney*."* In this flat, consisting principally of peat earth, stands the small town of

TOWYN,

Or *Tywyn*, containing 424 houses, and 2092 inhabitants. The buildings are chiefly of a coarse-grained schistose stone, found in the vicinity; and altogether the place has a respectable appearance. It is finely situated, exhibiting in the back ground, ranges of lofty and varied mountains, which form a shelter from ungenial blasts; and in front, a bold and commanding view of the ocean: and having a fine sandy beach, it is frequented during the summer season by numerous genteel families, for the purposes of sea-bathing. The church is a good building, containing several monuments; but not notable in point of sculpture. In the cemetery are two rude shaped vertical columns, one supposed to have been erected in memory of a warrior; and the other, seven feet in height, is ornamented with a cross: and on the reverse side is an inscription, in ancient, but illegible characters. This, called *St. Cadvan's* stone, is traditionally said to have been erected to the memory of that saint, to which the church is reputedly dedicated. St. Cadvan

* Collectanea, Vol. I. p. 178.

Cadvan was one among several missionaries, who emigrated from Armorica in Gaul, about the beginning of the sixth century; and whose chapel, at the north east end of the churchyard, was standing so late as the year 1690. This pyramidal pillar is considered commemorative of the pious man, and is certainly similar to the monuments, usually put up near the period in question. But there are more churches than this, denominated after his name; and it appears upon record, that he finally retired to Ynis Enlli, or Bardsey island; where he was for a time abbot, and there most probably was the place of his interment.

Cymmer Abbey in the parish of LLANELLTYD, is situated a short distance from the town of Dolgelleu. This appears to have been founded about the year 1198, by two Welsh princes, sons of Cynan and Howel; though it has been attributed to Llewelyn ap Jorwerth. His charter, however, to this monastery proves he was only a benefactor, for it enumerates the prior benefactions, and ascertains the boundaries of the ecclesiastical lands. This charter is a convincing proof of the superstition of the age, and the delusion to which the minds, even of princes, as well as peasants, were then subjected by a misguided priesthood. The most ample grants were included for insuring the safety of the soul. Authority over lakes, rivers, and seas; all kind of birds, beasts, wild, and tame; mountains, woods, things moveable, or immoveable; all things upon, and under the lands contained in the deed; with full liberty of digging for hidden treasures, and an unrestricted mining concern.

This abbey is known to the Welsh, under the name of *y Vanner*; but from having been called Cymmer, or Kemmer, by the English it has been confounded with *Cwmhir* abbey in Radnorshire.* An antiquarian of great celebrity observes of this abbey, that it is now all in ruins and is situated in as pleasant a bottom, as ever I saw. It was first founded by some monks, who

* Into this error has fallen the learned Dugdale, in his Monasticon; and the indefatigable Tanner, in his Notitia.

who sojourned there (as Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt expresses it in his remarks on Sir William Dugdale's Monasticon) from Cwmhir abbey. It seems it was a colony of monks, they sent away, as bees do, when the hive is too full. 'Ignavum fucos pecus a præsepibus arcent.' I think the monks were men of exquisite taste."*

About thirty years subsequent to the supposed period of its foundation, it appears to have been in a flourishing state; but the evils, arising out of war, more especially those which visit the seat of warfare, soon cast a paralysing damp on its rising prosperity. When Henry the third was marching a formidable army against the Welsh, who had asserted their independence under their intrepid leader, prince Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, and invested Montgomery castle, a monk of this house, happening to be on a service of espionage, was strictly examined as to the situation and strength of the Cambrian forces. Naturally considering it a duty incumbent upon every man, possessed of patriotism, to befriend his own country, rather than assist an enemy, he gave an exaggerated account of the opposing army, and misrepresented their different positions. The Welsh made a ruse de guerre, feigning a retreat to an extensive marsh, not far distant from the site of the first onset; on which the English troops eagerly pursued what they conceived to be the vanquished enemy; but being encumbered with heavy armour, and still further annoyed by the treacherous nature of the ground, they were unable to act offensively, or even retreat, before the light active troops to which they were opposed, returned to the charge; and after a short conflict, victory decided in favour of the Welsh. The King, incensed at the deception, and enraged from the sanguinary, as well as, disastrous consequences that ensued; on passing by the religious house, to which the informer belonged, gave command for its destruction by fire. All the out offices were consumed

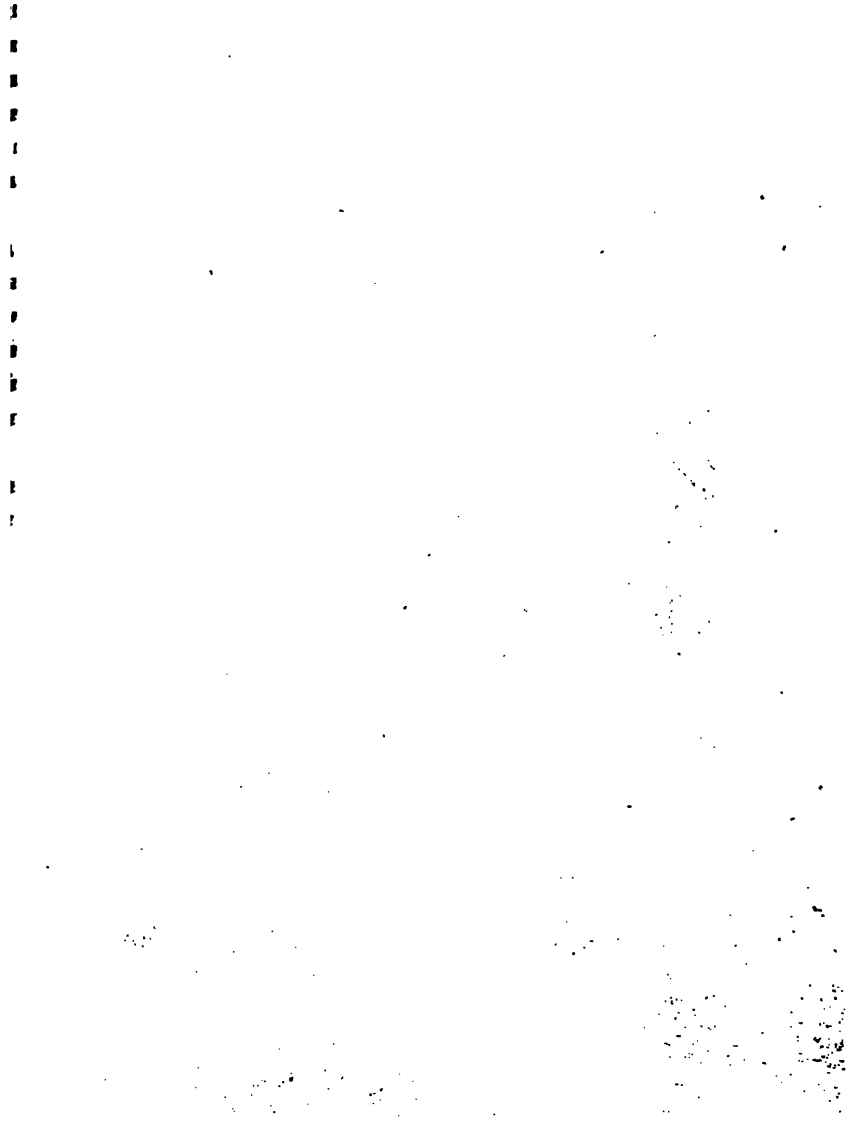
* Letter of Lewis Morris, published in the Cambrian Register for 1796.

sumed in the conflagration; but the abbot, having expurgated himself, and the resident brethren, from any privacy of the transaction, after profound submission, earnest entreaties, and subjecting the estates to a fine of three hundred marks; saved the rest of the building.* At the dissolution, the annual revenues were estimated, according to Speed's valuation, at fifty-eight pounds fifteen shillings.

The remains, though they form a picturesque ruin, have few features of ancient grandeur. Part of the conventual church exhibits at the east end three lancet-shaped windows, over which are three others of lesser dimensions, mantled, and almost hidden in a thicket of overgrown ivy. The large refectory and part of the abbot's lodge are at present comprehended in an adjoining farm house.

The waterfalls in the vicinity are highly worthy the traveller's attention. "The first cataract to which our guide conducted us was Dol-y-Myllynllyn, situate a little beyond the fifth milestone from Dolgelly, near the house of William Madox, Esq.; passing through a white gate to the left hand of the road, we approached the fall by a path which climbs a pretty steep acclivity, clothed with trees of various kinds, and sprinkled with numerous uncommon and curious plants. This ascent continues the better part of half a mile, when the fall opens itself to the view; we first observed it from above. Here the water appears to throw itself down a perpendicular descent of full forty feet, in two principal sheets, and, through some lateral gullies, into an hideous bed of black, disjoined rocks, through which it struggels for a few yards, and is then lost to a spectator in the surrounding woods. To obtain a view of its further progress we struck into a steep and intricate path, which led us to the foot of the cascade, where the scene becomes much more grand, beautiful, and extensive, than before. An additional fall of twenty-five feet now appears immediately in front; the first cataract, and the rugged channel into which it discharges itself, are seen to the left

* Mathew Paris, 811.



Fall of the
CAYNE,
North Wales.

left hand; and to the right, perpendicular rocks crowned with noble trees which throw their broad arms over the glittering waters, and relieve with sober shade their dazzling splendor. Retracing our path through the coppice, we returned into the road, and, proceeding along it, were directed to remark a lofty mountain, which soars immediately on the left hand. It is called the Prince of Wales's Mountain, and was formerly the subject of much speculation in the mining way. The veins, however, proved not sufficiently valuable to repay the expense of working them, and were consequently neglected. We in part ascended it, and collected several good mineralogical specimens; such as lumps of lead and copper-ore, pieces of spar, micacious stones, and so forth. A curious species of the toad-stone also, which abounds in the neighbourhood of this mountain, and is found in vast masses at the bottom of it, attracted our attention; it is of a greenish colour and cellular, the chambers filled with a hard substance in appearance exactly like charcoal. Seven miles from Dolgelly our guide conducted us over a bridge, to the right of the road, called Pont-ar-Garfa, from the river of that name which flows under it. From hence we proceeded nearly two miles on a gradual ascent over a slate mountain, the dulness of which was soon contrasted by a magnificent and sublime prospect. The summit of the hill Tylyn Gwladys, which we had been ascending, is opposed by the lofty mountain Cwm-Ysom, and the profound valley of Mouddach at its feet. Through this immense hollow the two torrents Cayne and Mouddach pour their irresistible streams; and through the deep woods which completely cloth the declivities on either side, preclude a view of their troubled waters; yet the roar of their cataracts swells upon the gale, and reaches the ear in one continual peal of distant thunder. The solemn sentiments which this circumstance naturally inspires, were exalted and enlivened, as we descended, by the surrounding scenery; the umbrageous and gloomy appearance of the glen, precipitous declivity of the hills, and the sharp rockey crags which shot through

bridge, formed of the trunk of an oak thrown
rock, and hanging frightfully over a black torre
many feet beneath it. We descended with some d
bottom of the fall. Here the effect is very augu
water is seen pouring down a rugged declivity, i
dicular, of two hundred feet; the view of it con
through the adjoining woods, which, though they
its sides, do not break by the intervention of thei
continuity of the fall. After tumbling from th
height, the agitated waters are received among
light dun colour, which their perpetual actions h
into hollows of alarming profundity and variou
through these they force their course, in order
selves with the Mouddach, a few hundred yards
on which we stood. Whilst we were contemplat
example of nature's magnificence, the sun which
veiled its head in the clouds, shone suddenly and
descending sheet of water, and produced an ap
conveyed no bad idea of an immense shower of d
ing from an eminence. After some time spent i
we were led to Pistil-y-Mouddach, or fall of th
which it was necessary for us to view from beneath
practicable to attain its summit. This cataract is o
different from any we have before visited.

Indeed we may extend this remark to all the

variety and constant sources of fresh entertainment to the admirer of nature. The Pistil-y-Mouddach consists of three falls, submitted at one view to the eye. The first is a sheet of water about twenty feet wide, and nearly as many in height, which tumbles in a deep pool of thirty feet in diameter. From hence it glides over the second ledge, producing a fall about thirty feet into another bason of larger dimensions. Here contracting itself, it is discharged by a third fall of twenty feet into the largest and deepest pool, over the brim of which it soon boils into a rude congeries of rocky craigs, and foams forward to its point of junction with the Cayne, affording an example of the accuracy with which the poet of nature has painted this, amongst her other varied scenes:—

" Smooth to the shelving brink a copious flood
Rolls fair and placid, where, collected all,
In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
In thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.
At first an azure sheet, it rushes broad;
Then whitening by degrees as prone it falls,
And from the loud resounding rocks below
Dash'd in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
A hoary mist, and form a coneless shower.
Nor can the tortured wave here find repose,
But raging still amid the shaggy rocks,
Now flashes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now,
As last the hollow'd channel rapid darts,
And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
With wild infracted course and lessen'd roar,
It gains a safer bed, and steals at last
Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

THOMSON'S *Summer*.

TRAWSFYNNYDD, is a small village walled in as it were by lofty mountains and isolated in a great degree from civilized society, is a place, where retirement from the world may be obtained without much inquiry. This extensive parish consists of a woodless sterile tract; but furnishes several objects worthy the

posed to have been a British castelet; but from the regularity of the facings, and the circumstance of numerous coins and urns having been discovered, it was probably Roman. The name *Castell Prysor*, or a castle built in haste, may account for the building being destitute of cement. It is surrounded by the foundations of other buildings beneath the mount, called *Tommen y Mur*. In the adjacent inclosed country is a large Roman encampment, commanding a number of passes, defended by the minor posts of this mountainous tract; evidently a camp of contiguous observation. Near this place, in a lake called *Llyn Rathlyn*, is a singular variety of perch; the back quite hunched, and the lower part of the back bone, next to the tail, strangely distorted: in colour, and other respects, it resembles the common kind, which are as numerous in this lake, as the deformed fish. "They are not peculiar to this water, for Linnæus takes notice of a similar variety found at Fahlan, in his own country. I have also heard that it is to be met with in the Thames near Marlow."*

Festiniog, a small village, has been justly celebrated by various authors; but particularly by the learned lord Lyttleton, who made a tour through Wales in the year 1756. His lordship, however, whom others have servilely copied, mistook the name, the proper appellation being the vale of *Maentwrog*: with it he was highly delighted, and justly appreciated the effect of its objects, and the charms of its scenery. "With the woman one loves, with the friend of one's heart, and a good study of books (says he to his friend Mr. Bower,) one might pass an age in this vale, and think it a day. If you have a mind to live long, and renew your youth, come with Mr. Bower, and settle at Ffestiniog. Not long ago there died in that great neighbourhood an honest Welsh farmer, who was 140 years of age. By his first wife he had thirteen children, by the second, four by his third, and seven by two concubines."

* Pennant's British Zoology, Vol. III. p. 256.

THE VALE OF FESTINIOG,
North Wales.

his youngest son was eighty-one years younger than his eldest; and 800 persons, descended from his body, attended his funeral."—I can add another instance of age and fecundity in this vale, which though far short of this in point of numbers, is still sufficiently great, to prove the healthfulness of the place. Jane Price, who died in the year 1694, had at the time of her death twelve children, forty-seven grand children, and thirteen great grandchildren. This has been classically compared to the celebrated vale of *Tempe*; and those, who have visited the one, will readily recognise features of a similar description in the other; few vales in this island affording such delightful prospects, or abound with such lovely scenery. Many of the lofty mountains, which flank its sides, are covered with venerable oaks, and their bases fringed with contrasted brushwood. The small rivulet Dwy'rid, or the two fords, winds in a serpentine manner, while its silvery waters meander placidly and silently along the bottom, amidst meadows and fields, presenting the luxuriance of rich verdure and high cultivation. The small village and church of Maentwrog, whence the vale receives its name, is situated near the middle of it. Near one end is a large upright stone, called *Maen Twrog*, from being supposed the monument of a saint of that name, son of Cadfan, a cotemporary of St. Beuno. The Dwy'ryd is formed by the Cynfaal and another similar alpine torrent. In the former rises a singular columnar rock, which stands in the bed of the river, called *Pulpit Hugh Llwyd Cynfael*,* or Hugh Loyd's Pulpit, the place from whence, the peasantry say, a magician of that name used to deliver his nightly incantations. Hugh was an astrologer, who lived in the time of James the first, and this place was as fit for the purpose as the pit of Acheron.

Tan y Bwlch Hall, the seat of *Mr. Oakley*, is situated on the declivity of a mountain, on the northern side of the vale. The house is a handsome mansion, embosomed in extensive woods of most luxuriant growth, which decorate this part of the

* See the Vignette Title to this Volume.

ploy, knitting along the roads, and as they walk, during the summer months; and in winter the females assemble at each other's houses, for the sake of society. When pursuing their employment they sit round a fire of peat, and listen to some anile tale, or legendary story, while the charms of song, accompanied with the fascinating music of the harp, tends to banish care by the promotion of hilarity.

During the season, this place is the general rendezvous of gentlemen, who resort here, for the purpose of grous shooting amidst the surrounding heath-clad hills. Lord Lyttleton gave it a certain kind of celebrity, for the beauty of its women, observing 'that he saw here some of the prettiest girls he ever beheld.'

Adjacent to the south-east end of the town is a large artificial mount, called *Tommen y Bala*. This is supposed to have been of Roman origin; and to have had a small fortress on its summit, to secure the pass towards the sea, and keep the mountaineers in subjection. In future periods the Welsh took advantage of this, and similar strong holds, to defend their country against the English invaders; making it one of their chain of fortified posts, which extended through the country to the coast on the confines of Flintshire. From the summit a fine view is obtained of the surrounding alpine scenery. On the right appears the two Arennigs, fawr and fach; beyond them soar the lofty Arans with their two heads, Aran Mowddwy, and Penllyn, and in the distance rises Cader Idris with pre-eminent grandeur.

Llyn Tegid, better known under the name of Pimble Mere, or Bala lake, lies about a quarter of a mile to the south of the town, extending about four miles in length, and three quarters of one in breadth. Its greatest depth is about forty feet. The accompanying scenery consists of easy slopes partly cultivated, and partly clothed with wood, and not dissimilar to the low hilly views around the lake of Winander Mere, in the county of Cumberland. During stormy weather, from the wide ex-

panse the billows run very high, encroaching greatly on the north-east end. The water rises sometimes nine feet above its usual level; and when winds and rains combine their forces, it overflows the banks into the fair vale of Edeirnion.

" Where eastern storms disturb the peaceful skies,
In Merioneth famous Penlin lies,
Here a vast lake which deepest vales surround,
His watry Globe rowls on the yielding ground,
Encreas'd with constant springs that gently run
From the ruff hills with pleasing murmers down,
This wondrous property the waters boast,
The greater rains are in its channels lost,
Nor raise the flood; but when the loud tempests roar,
The rising waves with sudden rage boyl ore,
And conqu'ring billows scorn th' unequal shore."

The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that the Dee passes through the lake, without mixing its waters, as the Rhone is fabled to serve the lake of Geneva. The proof adduced is, that salmon found in the river, are never found in the lakes, nor the gwyniads, except rarely, in the river. But this is no conclusive argument, because fish, as well as birds, by instinct seek out, and frequent, those places most agreeable to them as haunts, and most convenient for their feeding and shelter.

" A poole their is thro' which the Dee doth passe,
Where is a fish that some a whiting call;
Where neer yet no salmon taken was,
Yet hath good store of other fishes all.
Above that poole, and so beneath that flood
Are salmon caught, and many a fish full good,
But in the same their will no salmon bee,
And near that poole you shall no whiting see."*

The lake abounds with fish, such as pike, perch, trout, roach, &c. with shoals of a sort denominated a *gwyniaid*, from the whiteness

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales.

whiteness of its scales. It is a gregarious fish, the *Salmo lavaretus* of Linnæus, and found in most alpine lakes, particularly those of Switzerland. The greatest weight seldom exceeds three or four pounds. The flavour is by some persons considered rather insipid, but this may be for want of taste. For the noble author, previously quoted, asserts 'it is so delicate, that his friends, to whom he addresses his description of the country, would prefer the flavour of it to even the lips of the fair maids of Bala.' These fish usually keep at the bottom of the lake, where they feed on small shells and aquatic plants, so that to take them recourse is had, not to baited lines, but deep nets. The fishery in former times had constituted part of the possessions belonging to Basingwerk abbey; having been bestowed on God and St. Mary, through the medium of monks belonging to that house. The property of the whole is now claimed by Sir Watkin Williams, Bart. who has a neat hunting box in the vicinity. Permission to angle is granted to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood; but the netting, and keeping a boat, for pleasure, is reserved for the manorial lord and his friends.

On June the 20th 1781 a tract of country in this vicinity was totally inundated, as it is said, by one of those phænomena, denominated water-spouts, or bursting of a cloud, so frequently seen at sea, and so seldom occurring by land. The following description, however, given in a provincial newspaper of the day, affords a more rational account.

"Last Wednesday a prodigious quantity of rain fell in the parish of Llan-wchlyn, near Bala, accompanied by lightning which caused the river Twrch (whose source is in the noted hill Bwlch y Groes, and falls into Llyntegid, to overflow its banks in such a dreadful torrent, as to sweep away every impediment: the melancholy marks of its destruction may be traced from Bwlch y Groes to the lake. Seventeen houses, with the furniture, ten cows, and a vast number of sheep, were carried away, many fine meadows and corn-fields were covered with

with gravel and slime, so as to render the crops for this sum
of no value; one meadow in particular was heaped with lar
stones, so as to render it not worthy to be cleared for cult
tion; these stones were tumbled, by the rapidity of the cur
several hundred yards, and are of the following prodigious
mensions, viz. one 19 feet long, 9 broad, and 6 deep; and
[illegible] feet by 7½, and 6 deep, which was split by the impetu
of its motion, in striking upon another: eight other sto
half the above size, were carried half a mile, and five brid
swept away in that parish. In one of the houses a poor wo
sick in bed was drowned, the only person missing he
providentially the inhabitants of Pandy were timely alar
the consequence of a few minutes delay would have pro
fatal to the whole village, the houses and fine bridge at t
place being erased, and no remains left. Two young wo
laying together in bed, one of them was killed by the li
ning, but the cap of the other only a little scorched. "The s
day at Ruthin, the river rose to an amazing height, wh
prompted a number of people to go upon the bridge to obs
it; in a few minutes they were surrounded by the flood, a
obligated to remain in that distressing situation all night; J
Bills, a glazier, one of the number, leaning over the battlem
it unfortunally gave way, whereby he was drowned. I
easier to conceive than express the feeling of his compani
thus deplorably circumstanced, in full expectation of the bri
being carried away every moment, and they to share his
timely fate; next morning the flood was somewhat abated,
the people providentially saved. At Penmachno, thirt
horses, standing in a stable, belonging to two drovers, seve
them were killed by lightning; it is somewhat remarkable, t
the seven killed belonged to one of them; the remaining
owned by the other person, received no injury. Upon
whole, there never was known so general a deluge in th
parts by the oldest inhabitants."

Pont Llyn Dyffus. A bridge of one arch, about fifty

the span, is seen bestriding a deep and dismal chasm, through which the hoarse sounding torrent, the Glyn, rushing down into a deepened bed, roars over the disjointed rocks beneath, and, lashing the rocky sides, that check its impetuosity, rolls its angry waters to the Dee. The stupendous fissure, full two hundred feet deep, is overhung by large forest trees, whose spreading branches, intermingling from the opposite sides, throw a darkened shade over the awful scene; and the eye dreads to follow the maddened torrent through the profundity of its horrible bed.

A bold cataract, above the bridge, gives you sufficient notice that you are near it; and the hoarse rumblings of the water, heard in distant murmurs down the dark and wooded glen, give an additional effect to this truly sublime scene.

The road from Bala to Ruthin here joins that from Llanrwst, for which purpose the bridge was built; it winds round the side of a hill on a rocky shelf, with the wall towards the ravine, while the rude perpendicular mountain lifts its tremendous head, with overhanging crags, that serve to heighten the colouring of the terrific picture; and I may venture to affirm, that the coup d'œil of Pont ar dyffws is not inferior to Pont Aber Glas-lyn.

CORWEN.

The town is small containing 251 houses and 1169 inhabitants, situated on the rising ground on the southern bank of the Dee. The church is a neat cruciform structure, in a highly romantic situation immediately under a vast rocky cliff, the abrupt finishing of the Ferwyn; it is dedicated to Saint Julian, archbishop of St. David's, who was esteemed the godliest man and greatest clerk of all Wales; he died 1009.

On the south side of the church stands a cross, which the vulgar call the sword of Glyndwr; the shaft is let into a flat stone with four supporters; in its present mutilated state it

1349 and 1354. It is a common idea that extraordinary characters have their births ushered in by extraordinary events, or uncommon appearances; his father's horses were said to have been standing in the stable up to their bellies in blood the night previous to his nativity. Holingshed relates this as a presage of this arch-rebel's future cruelties: while the Welsh considered it as an omen of the just retaliations he would make upon their cruel oppressors; Owen encouraged this idea, as a means of securing the enthusiasm of the people in his favour; and, it is not unlikely, in endeavouring to persuade others, he had persuaded himself into a belief of its reality. Shakespeare finely delineates this mixture of superstition and vanity, when he puts the description of his birth into the hero's own mouth:

——————————" At my birth,
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes;
The goat ran from the mountains, and the herds
Were strongly clamourous, in the frighted fields;
These signs have marked me extraordinary;
And all the courses of my life do show,
I am not found in the roll of common men."

Endued with great military genius, a spirit impatient of controul, or provocation, with the late disgrace of his country strong upon his mind, he was prepared for those arduous scenes of difficulty and danger, which the circumstances of the times unavoidably laid before him. In the reign of Richard he had been a favourite of the British court; and evidently, from his principles, was attached to the person and interests of that monarch; for he followed the fallen fortunes of his royal master; and, after the king's death, retired to his patrimony, full of indignation at his sovereign's wrongs, and with an ardent desire to revenge them.

His resentment against the usurper, Henry, duke of Lancaster, was exasperated by private grievances as well as by public injuries; as might naturally be expected, he incurred the frowns

rather suppose it to be one of the temporary entrenched camps, where they halted for a night or two till they were able to regain sufficient strength, to recommence their depredatory warfare.

Owen Gwynedd is supposed by Lyttelton, to have occupied this post, while Henry the second, was encamped on the opposite side of the vale; the King had assembled all his choice forces on the Berwyn, and strongly intrenched them, by felling the woods and taking every possible precaution against ambush and surprise. Both armies, for a considerable time, lay in sight of each other; but the Welsh, being well acquainted with the country, with their light troops, cut off the King's supplies of forage and ammunition, and so harassed them by skirmishing, that the monarch was glad to withdraw to England in chagrin and disgrace, without having struck a single blow.* The place of encampment may still be traced by a rampart of earth, between the church of Corwen and the village of Canwyd.

This was afterwards the retreat of the celebrated Owen Glyndwr, whose memory is highly revered in this neighbourhood, long the scene of his exploits and his hospitality. The family name of this extraordinary character was Vychen; he was styled Glyndwr, or Glyndwrdwy, from his possessions lying principally in the vale of the Dee, (Dwrdwy) commonly called the vale of Llangollen: some remains of his private palace are still visible at a place called Sychnant, about three miles from Corwen. He was fourth in descent from Gryffydd Vychan, the surviving son of Gryffydd ap Madoc, lord of Bromfield and Yale, whose residence was at Castell Dinas Bran: by his mother's side he was allied to the North Wallian princes, from which descent he afterwards derived his claim to the throne of Wales.† Writers vary about the precise time of his birth; it must have been some time between the years 1349

* Vide Powel, p. 190.

† Leland thus reckons his genealogy; "Lleulin ap Jerworth Droyndan, Prince of al Wales, had Grifith: Grifith had Lleulin; Lleulin had Caterine, Caterine had Eleanor; Eleanor had Helene, Mother to O. Glindoure."

siasm, as a miraculous personage from heaven, who should revenge the blood of their country, and restore to it, once again its lost independence. Surrounded by a people ardently breathing for liberty, and at the head of a formidable army, his first act was that of just retaliation. He seized upon the lands and person of his chief enemy, Lord Grey;* and on the twentieth of September, 1400, was publicly proclaimed prince of North Wales. The insurrection now became general, and the Welsh, except within the influence of the royal garrisons, entirely threw off the English yoke. So formidable indeed was the rebellion considered by the English, that the King thought it necessary to march against Owen, in person; but, after endeavouring to dislodge him from his fastnesses among the mountains, and losing the flower of his army in the attempt, he returned to London again in chagrin and disgrace. Taking advantage of this interval, Owen over-ran South Wales; taking many of the castles, garrisoning some, dismantling others, and destroying by fire and sword every thing that opposed the execution of his designs.

The King having recruited his army, and filled his treasury by contributions, once more took the field against this arch rebel; but with no better success. Want of victory was, in this case, defeat; for every day, Owen acquired new friends and additional strength. The year 1402 was the meridian of his glory. He completely subdued his great enemy Grey, who had again appeared in arms, and forced him into a matrimonial alliance with one of his daughters. Having thus secured him, he proceeded

now their rightful Prince; expounded the hitherto mysterious prophecies and asserted, that in this extraordinary man was to be expected the completion of every prediction of the oracular Merlin.

* Reginald was kept a close prisoner, and probably severely handled by Owen; the king wished to obtain the liberty of his favourite: Owen demanded ten thousand marks for his ransom, and the King's son, with other nobles or hostages for the payment; the king, at length, complied with the extravagant terms of redemption, and Reginald was set at liberty.

ceeded to an act, which, however political it might be considered from the urgency of the times, yet can never its atrocity be wiped from the escutcheon of Glyndwr. Under pretence that many of the clergy had favoured the cause of Henry, unheard, and with a total disregard to innocence, or guilt, he adjudged them to the sword, and sacrilegiously sacked and destroyed the cathedrals of St. Asaph and Bangor. Owen was now become the hope of his friends and the terror of his enemies. The prince of English bards, while he pourtrays the vanity of Owen, makes him vauntingly boast of his connection with the spiritual world:

"Where is he living, clep'd in with the sea
That chides the banks of England, Wales, or Scotland,
Who calls me pupil? or has read to me?
And bring him out, that is but woman's son,
Can trace me in the tedious ways of art;
Or hold my peace in deep experiments?
I can call spirits from the vasty deep."

Owen's affairs began to wear so prosperous an aspect, that he assembled a parliament of the principal gentlemen who espoused his cause at Machynlleth.* His title to the principality was here formally acknowledged, and the crown placed on his head. He entered into an alliance with the Prince of Northumberland, and lord Mortimer. Victory had roused the dormant spirit of the most indifferent parts of the country: and by his past experience, and the influx of additional troops, he

 became

* Here he narrowly escaped assassination, from a snare laid for him by his brother-in-law, David Gam, a professed friend, in the pay of Henry. But the plot being opportunely discovered, Glyndwr escaped. He spared Gam's life from affection for his wife, but kept him in close confinement for years.

Powel says (p. 316,) that he was released upon his solemnly promising to be true and loyal to Glyndwr in future; that David basely fled from his engagements, and Owen retaliated by burning his mansion, but Gam escaped.

became still more formidable from an invasion of the north, by the Scotch, which created a powerful diversion in his favour. He was not only able to overrun great part of the principality, but to make predatory excursions, and lay contributions to the banks of the Severn. Victory trode close upon the heels of victory: and the English, beaten and discomfitted in every quarter, to cover the disgrace of total defeat, attributed the causes to the incantations of witches and wicked spirits, enlisted under the banners of the British chieftain. Owen judiciously encouraged an idea so calculated to inspire his own army with courage, and throw dismay and terror among the troops of his enemy, the Earl of March; and this triumvirate, like the old one of Rome, placing their geographical instruments before them, divided the empire amongst them. The effect of this coalition, however, was not friendly to the cause of Glyndwr. Two armies arrived under the command of Mortimer; and a third, under Percy, tried to form a junction with Glyndwr, and incamped in the vicinity of Oswestry. Henry, with true military skill, sensible, how important it was to his cause, to prevent, if possible, this junction; hastened by forced marches to engage Percy, at the risque of being surrounded by a detachment from the allies, whom he overtook and defeated near Shrewsbury. This cast a gloom upon Owen's atmosphere for some time; but spurning fear, and trampling on difficulty, he entered into an alliance with Charles, king of France; by whose assistance, with troops and money, he renewed the war with redoubled vigour; and was so successful this campaign (1404), that the English were driven from every post; the principality was alienated from the crown of England, and Welsh independence appeared firmly re-established. The next year the sky was again darkened with heavy clouds, and heaven seemed to frown on his affairs. The English troops, led by the wise and intrepid Henry, Prince of Wales, proved invincible; and the Welsh, as though suddenly bereft of their usual spirit, yielded in several pitched

battle

battles to superior discipline, and became an easy conquest to the enemy. The spirit of Owen himself, who had hitherto borne up against adversity, and spoken of difficulties like dew-drops from a lion's mane, seemed broken; his principal friends dispersed; and he was obliged to wander from place to place, accompanied by a few trusty partisans, amidst the retired and secure parts of the woods and mountains; shortly after this Owen's fortune again revived.

He received fresh succours from France; and we find him at the end of the year 1405, at the head of a powerful and well appointed army, encamped on Wobury Hill, in the parish of Witley, near Worcester, the suburbs of which city he burnt. The King was constrained to go a fourth time, in person, against this formidable enemy. Here the French, unequal in valour to the English, shamefully gave way at the beginning of the day; and the allied army experienced a most terrible defeat. Owen, with the remnant of the Welsh, made good his retreat to the mountains of Wales; and feeling the indignation which the brave always experience at the sight of cowardice, sent the French troops home, and began to turn his attention to internal defence; from this period his affairs began rapidly to decline; his forces were not only weakened by the late disasters, but also by the defection of the whole district of Ystrad Tywy. Though he possessed a sufficient strength to retain his fortified position, he was too weak to meditate any thing beyond defensive measures. His career was stopped, and his army almost dwindled to nothing, yet the spirit of Owen was not utterly depressed; for in opposition to a grant of lands made by Henry, consisting of estates belonging to the adherents of Owen, he was not behind the King in an ostentatious display of regal power. He granted a pardon to one John ap Howel, ap Jevan Goch, "Anno principatus nostri 4th, datum apud Kevn Llanvair X. die Jan. per ipsum principem."

On the seal was the protrait of Owen seated in a chair of state, bearing a sceptre in his right hand and a globe in his left.

Having lost his principal fortresses, Owen, though he had acquired some additional followers, was unable to do little more than make predatory inroads upon the Welsh marches. Numbers of his friends, wearied with the length of the war and the hopeless prospect of final success, at length deserted his standard; and he was constrained to confine himself to the most difficult passes and defensible positions, amidst the mountains. Still though the power of our hero was reduced, his spirit was far from being subdued. He yet possessed the alps of Wales, in which he remained invincible, because they were inaccessible; though so closely blockaded, as to cease to be formidable to the neighbourhood.

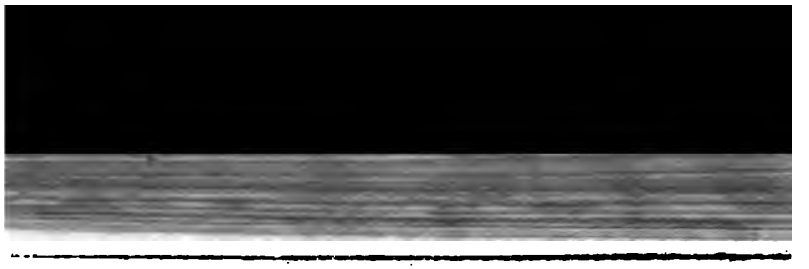
Here, with a determined bravery, he maintained his position in spite of the whole force of England, till long after the death of Henry; when Henry the fifth, wishing to have his mind and his troops disengaged, to chastise the French; and finding Owen and his adherents still in a respectable state of defence, who, in the absence of his troops, might annoy the neighbourhood, condescended to enter into a treaty with him. The tenour of which was a free pardon for him and his followers; and an act of oblivion and general amnesty for the whole kingdom. Whether the hero deigned to negociate is not said; probably his death, which happened about this time (1415), interrupted its completion. If this event * took place, as stated at the house of his daughter, there is reason to suppose that he did. The treaty was, however, again renewed by the same minister, Sir Gilbert Talbot, with the son Meredydd ap Owen, February 24th, 1416; and by his closing with the terms, peace was restored to both countries, after an indecisive struggle of fifteen years.

* He died September 20th, aged 61.

END OF NORTH WALES.

LIST

IRE TOWER.
Wales.



LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL

BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, PRINTS, VIEWS, MAPS, &c.

Illustrative of the History, Topography, Antiquities, Scenery, and Biography of

CAMBRIA, commonly called WALES.

OF WALES IN GENERAL.

NUMEROUS manuscripts in public and private collections still remain unpublished, respecting the Principality.

A good collection was made by Mr. Maurice, of Kenvy breach in Denbighshire, whom Bishop Nicholson denominates a notable Antiquary. These are now preserved in the library at Wynnstay, the property of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.

The collections of that most eminent antiquary, Edward Llwyd, were left in the hands of Sir Thomas Seabright, Bart; and afterwards, by bequest, or purchase, came into the possession of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart. These, among many other valuable manuscripts, denominated "The Seabright Collection," were unfortunately destroyed by fire, in the conflagration which happened at Covent Garden theatre: having been previously entrusted in the possession of an eminent book-binder, residing in the vicinity.

The library of Mr. Davies of Llannerch in the county of Denbigh, besides numerous valuable manuscripts, contains the collections of the celebrated Sir Roger Twisden.

The Rev. Mr. Evans made a considerable collection, which were purchased by the late Paul Panton, Esq. and are preserved at Plas Gwyn, in Anglesea.

Numerous manuscripts obtained by the indefatigable researches of Mr. Vaughan, of Hengwrt, are in possession of Sir Robert Williams Vaughan, Bart. of Nannau in the county of Merioneth. And a much larger collection in the library at Gloddaeth, belonging to Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart. Some valuable ones are also in the library of the Welsh school, Gray's Inn lane. London.

"*Itinerarium Cambriæ;* seu laboriosæ Baldwin. Cantuar. archiepiscopi per Walliam legationis, accurata descriptio, auctore Sil. Giraldo Cambrense, Cum annotationibus Davidis Poveli, sacræ theologiæ professoris. Lond. 1585."

"*Britannicæ Historicæ*" lib. 6, by the same Editor, reprinted among Camden's Scriptores Historiæ Anglicæ, &c. Francfort, 1605, fol. To this was annexed the first book of Giraldus, entitled,

"*Cambriæ descriptio,*" or Topographia, with notes by the same Editor. The general title of this, or at least the best known is "*De laudabilibus Walliæ.*" The second book was published by Wharton in his Anglia Sacra, vol. II; where it is entitled,

"*Giraldi Cambrensis liber secundus de Descriptione Walliæ,*" seu liber de illaudabilibus Walliæ. There are two manuscripts of this work, one dedicated to Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln: and another enlarged copy, dedicated to Stephen, archbishop of Canterbury. The former is in the library at Westminster; and the other among the Cottonian Collection, Dom. A. 1. in the British Museum.

Giraldus Cambrensis was a native of Pembrokeshire, and archdeacon of St. David's and Brecon, who accompanied Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, on a crusading mission through Wales, A. D. 1188.

The original Latin edition of the Itinerary, with Powel's Annotationes, were published in one vol. 4to. by Miller, Albemarle street, edited by Sir Richard Coate Hoare, Bart. who also gave a translation of the same work, elucidated by Topographical, Biographical, and other notices, with the names of places, and persons mentioned in the course of the work, and illustrated with numerous picturesque and monumental views, with other plates, relative to the antiquities and ecclesiastical architecture of Wales. To this is added a copious life of Giraldus, and a general introduction to the History of Wales from the earliest period to the time the Itinerary was written; to which is prefixed a particular account of the Roman roads, stations, &c. and a large map of Wales. Two vols. 4to.

David Morgan, treasurer of Llandaff in the year 1480, is said, by Pitts, to have written the Geography and Antiquities of Wales; but no account of his works is given either by Willis, or Tanner.

Humphrey Lhwyd, a physician of Denbigh, wrote some short tracts relative to this country, incorrectly published after his death, which happened about the year 1578. The title of one is "*Commentarioli Britannicæ descriptionis Fragmentum,* auctore Humfredo Lhuyd Denbyghiense, Cambro Britanno. Hujus auctoris diligentiam, et judicium lector admirabitur. Coloniæ Agrippinæ, 1572, 12mo. This work was soon after translated into English by Thomas Twyne, under the title of "*The Breviary of Britayne.*" London, 1573, 12mo.

The original Latin edition was republished by Sir John Pryse, author of Fides Historiæ Britannicæ, at the end of his Historicæ Britannicæ defensio, London, 1573, 4to. It had also been annexed to "*A Description of Cambria, now called Wales,* drawn first by Sir John Pryse, knt. and afterward augmented and made perfect by Humfrey Lhuyd gentleman, prefixed to "*The Historie of Cambria, now called Wales,* a part of the most famous island of Brytaine; written in the British language above two hundred yeares past; translated into English by H. Lhuyd gentleman: corrected, augmented, and continued out of records, and best approved authors, by David Powel, doctor in

in divinitie 1584." The history of Cambria is by Caradoc of Llancaroan; and this translation of the work was republished by William Wynn, A. M. fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, Lond. 1697, 8vo. A second edition, accompanied by a Map, was printed by Sellers in 1702. A third, greatly enlarged and improved, with pedigrees of families, &c. was published Lond. 1774, 8vo.

"*The Chronicle of the Kings of Great Britain;*" translated from the Welsh copy attributed to Tysilio; collated with several other copies, and illustrated with copious notes; to which are added original dissertations on the following subjects, viz. On the History and Epistle attributed to Gildas. On the authority of the Brut. On the primary Population of Britain. On the laws of Dyfnwal Moelmyd and on the Ancient British Church. By Peter Roberts, M.A. London 1811. 4to.

"*Cambria Triumphans*, or Britain in its perfect lustre, shewing the Origin, and Antiquity of that illustrious nation, the succession of their Kings and Princes, from the first to K. Charles of happy memory; the description of the county; the history of the ancient and modern state; the manner of the investiture of the Princes; with the coates of Arms of the Nobility." By Percie Enderbie gent. Lond. 1661, fol. Anthony Wood calls this, and with some degree of justice, a scribble from late authors.

"*The History of Manchester in four Books.* By the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, two vols. 4to." An octavo edition of a part of this work was published in London 1773.

"*The genuine History of the Britons asserted against Mr. Macpherson.* By the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, author of the History of Manchester. London, 1773, 8vo,"

"*British Antiquities revived;*" or a Friendly Contest touching the sovereignty of the three Princes of Wales in ancient times, managed with certain arguments, whereunto answers are applied by Robert Vaughan, Esq. To which is added the Pedigree of the right honourable, the Earl of Carbery, lord president of Wales, with a short account of the five royal tribes of Cambriæ, by the same Author. Oxf. 1662, 4to.

"*The History of the ancient and Modern estate of the Principality of Wales, Dutchy of Cornewall and Earldom of Chester,*" collected out of the Records of the Tower of London, and divers ancient Authors. By John Dodridge, knt. late one of his Majestie's Judges in the King's-bench: and by himself, dedicated to King James of ever blessed memory. Lond. 1630, 4to. Since reprinted in 8vo. 1701. The second edition of this was republished with a different title. Lond. 1714, 8vo.

"*A True though short Account of the Ancient Britons,* in respect to their descent, qualities, settlement, country, language, learning, and religion; with the effigies of Llewylyn ap Griffith, the last prince of Wales, of British blood. By P. L. a Cambro Briton. Lond. 1716." 4to.

"*The History of the Principality of Wales, in three parts,* together

with the natural and artificial rarities in the several counties of the principality. By Robert Burton. Lond. 1730." 12mo.

For the account of Plants, natives of this county see "*Mercurii botanici pars altera*, sive plantarum gratia suscept. itineris in Cambriam, sive Walliam descriptio; exhibens reliquarum stirpium tractium (quæ in priore parte non enumerabantur) catalogum, Lond. 1641," 8vo.

"*A just and true Remonstrance of his Majesty's Mines Royal in the Principality of Wales.* Lond. 1642." 4to. By Thomas Bushel, Farmer of his Majesty's minerals here.

"*Fodinæ Regales*, or the History, Laws, and Places of the mines and mineral works in England and Wales, and the English Pale in Ireland. By Sir John Pettus, knt. Lond. 1670," fol. Another edition in 8vo. bears date 1676.

"*Practica Walliæ*, or Proceedings in the Great Sessions of Wales, containing the method and practice of an Attorney there, from an original to the execution; whereunto is added the old Statute of Wales at large; and an Abridgement of all the Statues, uniting Wales to England, with Tables of the Fees, and the matters therein contained. By Rice Vaughan, esq. late of Gray's Inn. Lond. 1672." 12mo.

"A concise History of the Lords Marchers, their Origin, Power, and Conquests in Wales; printed in, '*Owen's British Remains.*' Lond. 1777. 8vo."

In the 74th year of his Age, John Taylor, the celebrated Water Poet, made the Tour of Wales, and published "*A short Relation of a Long Journey, made round, or ovall by encompassing the Principalitie of Wales, from London, through and by the counties of Middlesex, and Buckingham, Berks, Oxonia, Warwick, Stafford, Chester, Flint, Denbigh, Anglesey, Carnarvon, Merioneth, Cardigan, Pembrooke, Carmarden, Glamorgan, Monmouth, Glocester*, &c. This painful circuit began on the thirteenth of July last, 1652, and was ended (or both ends brought together) on Tuesday the seventh of September following, being near 600 miles: thereunto is annexed an Epitome of the famous History of Wales. Performed by the Riding, Going, Crawling, Running, and Writing of John Taylor, dwelling at the Sign of the Poet's Head in Phœnix Alley, near the middle of Long Aker, or Covent Garden." 8vo.

"*Two Successive Tours throughout the whole of Wales*, with several of the adjacent English counties, so as to form a comprehensive view of the picturesque beauty, the peculiar manners, and the fine remains of Antiquity in that interesting part of the British Island. By Henry Skrine, Esq. of Warley in Somersetshire, &c. Lond. 1798," 8vo.

"*Cambrian Directory*," or Cursory Sketches of the Welsh Territories, with a Chart, comprehending at one view, the Advisable Route—best Inns—Distances—and objects most worthy of attention, printed at Salisbury. 8vo.

"*The Cambrian Register*" for 1795, and 1796. Lond. two vols. 8vo.

"*The*

"*The Cambrian Itinerary*," 8vo. 1801.

"*Cambrian Biography*," 12mo. 1803.

"A Topographical Dictionary of the Dominion of Wales, exhibiting the names of the several Cities, Towns, Parishes, Townships, Hamlets, with the county and division of the county to which they respectively belong. The valuation and Patrons of Ecclesiastical benefices, and the tutelary saint of each Church. With a variety of interesting information, compiled from actual inquiry; being a continuation of the Topography of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Ireland. By Nicholas Carlisle, Fellow and Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Lond. 1811." 4to.

"A Walk through Wales in August 1797, by the Rev. Richard Warner of Bath. Bath, 1798."

"A Second Walk through Wales. By the Rev. Richard Warner of Bath, in August and September, 1798. Bath 1799."

"William's Observations on the Snowdon Mountains, Bangor, 8vo."

"History of Wales by Mr Warrington, 2 vols. 4to. 1786."

"Yorke's Royal Tribes of Wales, 4to. 1799."

"*An Account of a Journey into Wales*;" By Lord Lyttleton, in two Letters to Mr. Bower, is printed in the Miscellaneous works of that Nobleman.

"*Leges Wallicæ*, or the Laws of Hywel Dda, translated into Latin by Dr. Henry Wotton, 1730, folio."

"*Lewis's History of Britain*, 1729," fol.

In the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, in vol. LVII. Art. 23, is an Account of some particular fish in Wales by the honorable Daines Barrington.

In the ARCHÆOLOGIA, vol. I. p. 27, are observations by the same on Welsh castles.

In vol. III. p. 30, he describes two musical instruments formerly used in the Principality, viz. the *Crwth* and *Pibcorn*.

"*The Myvyrian Archaiology*," Vol. I. II. 1801; and still continued, comprises the contents of numerous valuable Manuscripts respecting the Ancient History, and Literature of Cambria. This valuable publication originated with Mr. Owen Jones, a great promoter of Welsh learning; and himself, though a tradesman, a great proficient in the antiquities of the country. The conducting of the work, which embraces the works of eminent Bards and Historians, was placed under the direction of that able Welsh Philologist, Mr. William Owen, Author of a Welsh Dictionary on a very improved plan, in two Vols. crown Octavo.

Henry Penruddock Wyndham published a small work in 12mo. entitled, "*A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire, and Wales.*" Observations made during a second Journey were subsequently published in one volume, 4to. including those in the previous

vious tour, and embellished with plates, made from elegant drawings by himself and H. S. Grim.

"*The Worthines of Wales*, wherein are more than a 1000 things rehearsed: set out in prose and verse, and interlarded with many wonders, &c. by Thomas Churchyard, Lond. 1587." 4to. The Title was altered, in an Edition, printed from this, to

"*The Worthines of Wales, a Poem*; or, A True Note of the Ancient Castles, Famous Monuments, Goodly Rivers, faire Bridges, fine Townes, and courteous People, that I have seen in the noble countrie of Wales; and now set forth by Thomas Churchyard, Londo 1776. Small 8vo."

MAPS, VIEWS, &c.

Saxton made, "*A General Map of Wales, and Denbigh*," 1579.

The next "*Map of the whole Principality*," was by Speed, which was ornamented with views of the four Cathedrals, and the twelve county Towns.

Buck's "*Views of the Antiquities of Wales*," fol.

Grose's "*Antiquities of Wales*," containing Plans, Views, &c. folio.

"*Views in Wales*," consisting of Castles, and other interesting Buildings, by Paul Sandby.

These was published at the same time with Mr. Lewis Morris's "*Plans of Harbours, &c. on St. George's Channel*, 1748," "*A large Sheet Chart of the Coast of Wales* in St. *George's Channel*; done from the same survey with those roads and harbours: which Chart being an Abstract of the Survey will be very useful and convenient to them, that have this book, to shew the situations of the Harbours, &c. described here, as well as the courses and distances from place to place and all other requisites, belonging to a Sea Chart of that kind. 1734—1744."

Mr. S. Morris published also "*A Set of Charts of the Coast of Wales*."

NORTH WALES.

Edward Llwyd's "*Collections for Flint, Denbigh, and Montgomery shires*, were transcribed for —— Mytton, Esq. of Halton, about 1747; and are now preserved in the Library there.

"*Letters from Snowdon*; descriptive of a Tour through the Northern Counties of Wales. Containing the Antiquities, History, and State of the Country; with the Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants. Lond. 1770." 12mo.

"*An Account of some of the most Romantic parts of North Wales*. Lond. 1777. By Joseph Cradock, Esq." 12mo.

In the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, vol. LXI. Art. 35, is an account of experiments made in North Wales, to ascertain the different quantities

quantities of rain, which fell at the same time at different heights. By the honourable Daines Barrington, Art. 111. of the same volume contains a letter to the same from Richard Hill Waring, Esq. on some plants found in several parts of Wales, particularly the counties of Flint, Denbigh, Caernarvon, and Merioneth.

"*A Tour in Wales*" in the year 1770, by David Pennant, Esq. appeared in 1778; and an enlarged view of the Northern part of the Principality in 2 Vols. 4to. in 1784. Another Edition of the same work, was published in 3 vols. 8vo. in 1810.

"*North Wales*," including its Scenery, Antiquities, Customs, and some Sketches of its Natural History; delineated from two excursions through all the interesting parts of that country, during the Summers of 1798 and 1801. By the Rev. W. Bingley M. A. fellow of the Linnean Society, and late of Peter-house, Cambridge. Lond. In two volumes 8vo. This is illustrated with a new Map, frontispieces, and several favourite Welsh airs.

"*Letters written during a Tour through North Wales*," in the year 1798 and at other times, containing views of the History, Antiquities and Customs of that part of the Principality; and interspersed with observations on its Scenery, Agriculture, Botany, Mineralogy, Trade, and Manufactures. By the Rev. J. Evans B. A. late of Jesus College Oxon. London, 1800. Another Edition was published in 1804.

"Hutton's Remarks on North Wales, 1803," 8vo.

"Aikin's Journal of a Tour through North Wales, 1797," 8vo.

A large Map of North Wales in nine sheets and reduced to two, done from actual survey by John Evans of Llwyn-y-groes, near Oswestry; contains the best delineation of the country ever before published. The six counties are also well delineated in the British Atlas, which accompanies the Beauties of England and Wales.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.—A little Work, entitled, "*The Record of Caernarvon*," being an Extent of the Counties of Caernarvon, and Anglesey in imitation of Domesday Book, was begun in the time of Edward the first, and finished in the reign of Edward the third. Two fair Copies of this were made at the expence of Sir William Gruffyd. One of which is lodged in the Chamberlain's Office, at Caernarvon; and the other is preserved in the Auditor's Office in London.

"*The Taking of Caernarvon by Major General Mytton*, with the Articles agreed upon June 5th, 1646. 1646," 4to.

In the ARCHÆOLOGY, Vol. III. p. 303. is a Description of the Carn Braich y Dinas, on Penmaen Mawr, by Governor Pownal and p. 350, his further Observations upon the same Subject.

PRINTS, &c.

Views of Caernarvon Castle, taken in various bearings, have been executed by different artists.

"*Caernarvonshire*." A Sketch of its History, Antiquities, Mountains,

tains, and productions. Intended as a Pocket Companion to th who make the Tour of that County. London, 1792." Small 8vo.

One by Buck. 1742.

N. W. and E. View, by Boydell, 1750.

View by P. Sandby, 1776.

"*A Survey of the Cathedral Church of Bangor*, and the Edifi belonging to it. Collected by Browne Willis, Esq. Lond. 173 8vo. With the *Ichnographical Plan of the Cathedral.*

A View in the Town of Bangor, by P. Sandby, 1776.

S. W. View of the Church, with the *Palace*, by Buck, 1742.

Two Views of Conway Castle, by Grose and Godfrey, 1773, 17

Snowdon, with its Environs, after Wilson, by W. Woollett.

View of Penmaen Mawr and Rhaiadr Fawr, by Boydell, 17

DENBIGHSHIRE.—Part of this County is included in Domesd book. Art. Cheshire.

"*A Perambulation and Survey of the Lordships of Bromfield Yale*," by Nordon, in 1620, is in the Harleian Library, 1696.

"*The History of the Gwedir Family*," by Sir John Wynne, published at Lond. 1770, by the Honourable Daines Barrington 12mo. This contains much interesting Matter.

"*Three Victories in Wales*," &c. and a copy of the Articles, the Surrender of Ruthen Castle to Major General Mytton, & Lond. 1696.

PRINTS, &c.

A Large View of Ruthin by Lewis.

W. and N. W. Views of Chirk Castle, by Badeslad, and Tom 1735.

Chirk Castle, from Wynnstay Park.
The New Bridge over the Dee, near Chirk.
Llangollen, from the Turnpike Road above the River *Pont y Pair*, over the Conwy.
Wynnstay, the Seat of Sir W. W. Wynne.
} by P. Sandby 1776.

A Large *Map of Denbigh and Flint shires*, in Four Sheets, with t Arms of the Subscribers, and Views of the Principal Seats, was e graved by Senex, about the year 1780.

FLINTSHIRE.—"*A Survey of the Cathedral Church of St. Asap and the Edifices belonging to it*, the History of the Bishops, Dea and other Dignitaries, with an Appendix of Records, &c. collecte by Browne Willis, Esq. Lond. 1720." 8vo.

S. E. View of the Cathedral, with the Bishop's Palace, by Buck 1742.

A View of the Town, by J. Lewis.

The Life of St. Winefred, Patroness of this County, has been frequently written. Gilbert de Stone, a learned Ecclesiastic, who flourished about 1380 was applied to by the monks of Holywell, to write her life. On being assured by them, there were no materials in their Monastery for it, he replied, he could execute the Work just as well without any; and he would give them a most excellent legend, after the Manner of that, previously drawn up, respecting Thomas a Becket.

"*A Life*, written by Robert, Prior of Shrewsbury, about 1138 was translated by one J. F. a Jesuit. Bishop Fleetwood republished this, under the Titie of, "*The Life and Miracles of St. Wenefrede*, together with her Litanies; with some Historical Observations made thereon. Lond. 1713," 8vo.

PRINTS, &c.

A *View* of her *Well* and *Chapel* was Engraved by Buck.

Flint Castle, with a Plan, was published by Grose and Roberts, in 1775.

Two Views of Hawarden Castle and Park, were engraved by G. Barret, and published by Boydell, 1773.

Basingwerk Abbey, by Grose and Sparrow, 1774.

Overton Bridge, by Paul Sandby, 1776.

MERIONETHSHIRE.—In the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, No. 208, is an Account of a Fiery Exhalation at Harlech, reprinted in Gibson's Camden.

PRINTS, &c.

N. W. View of *Harlech Castle*, by Buck, 1742.

View of *Pont Aber-Glaslyn*, by P. Sandby.

Cader Idris Mountain, after a Painting, of R. Wilson, by E. and M. Rooker.

Saxton joined this and the following County in one *Map*, 1578, engraved by R. Hogenbergius, without the Hundreds, added in Merionethshire. 1610. By J. Speed.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.—"*Letter from Sir William Brereton, Sir Thomas Middleton, Sir John Meldrum, of the Great Victory (by God's Providence) Given them in Raising the Siege from before Montgomery Castle.* And how they routed and totally dispersed his Majestie's Forces, under the command of the Lord Byron: where they tooke all their Carriages, Arms, and Ammunition, and made them fly to Shrewsbury, and Chester, 1644." 4to. Prints.

Buck engraved a *S. View* of *Montgomery*, and *S. E.* of *Powys Castle*.

In Pennant's North Wales is a View of it, since it has received some alterations.

J. Lewis Engraved a view of *Welshpool*.

ANGLESEA.

Having lost his principal fortresses, Owen, though he had acquired some additional followers, was unable to do little more than make predatory inroads upon the Welsh marches. Numbers of his friends, wearied with the length of the war and the hopeless prospect of final success, at length deserted his standard; and he was constrained to confine himself to the most difficult passes and defensible positions, amidst the mountains. Still though the power of our hero was reduced, his spirit was far from being subdued. He yet possessed the alps of Wales, in which he remained invincible, because they were inaccessible; though so closely blockaded, as to cease to be formidable to the neighbourhood.

Here, with a determined bravery, he maintained his position in spite of the whole force of England, till long after the death of Henry; when Henry the fifth, wishing to have his mind and his troops disengaged, to chastise the French; and finding Owen and his adherents still in a respectable state of defence, who, in the absence of his troops, might annoy the neighbourhood, condescended to enter into a treaty with him. The tenour of which was a free pardon for him and his followers; and an act of oblivion and general amnesty for the whole kingdom. Whether the hero deigned to negociate is not said; probably his death, which happened about this time (1415), interrupted its completion. If this event * took place, as stated at the house of his daughter, there is reason to suppose that he did. The treaty was, however, again renewed by the same minister, Sir Gilbert Talbot, with the son Meredydd ap Owen, February 24th, 1416; and by his closing with the terms, peace was restored to both countries, after an indecisive struggle of fifteen years.

* He died September 20th, aged 61.

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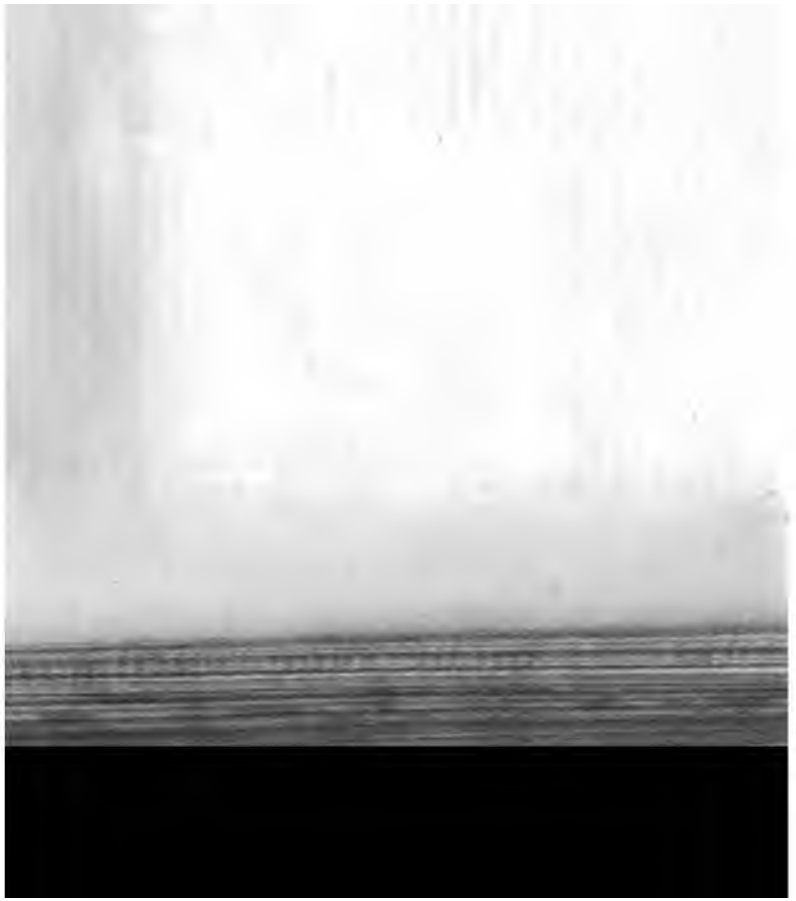

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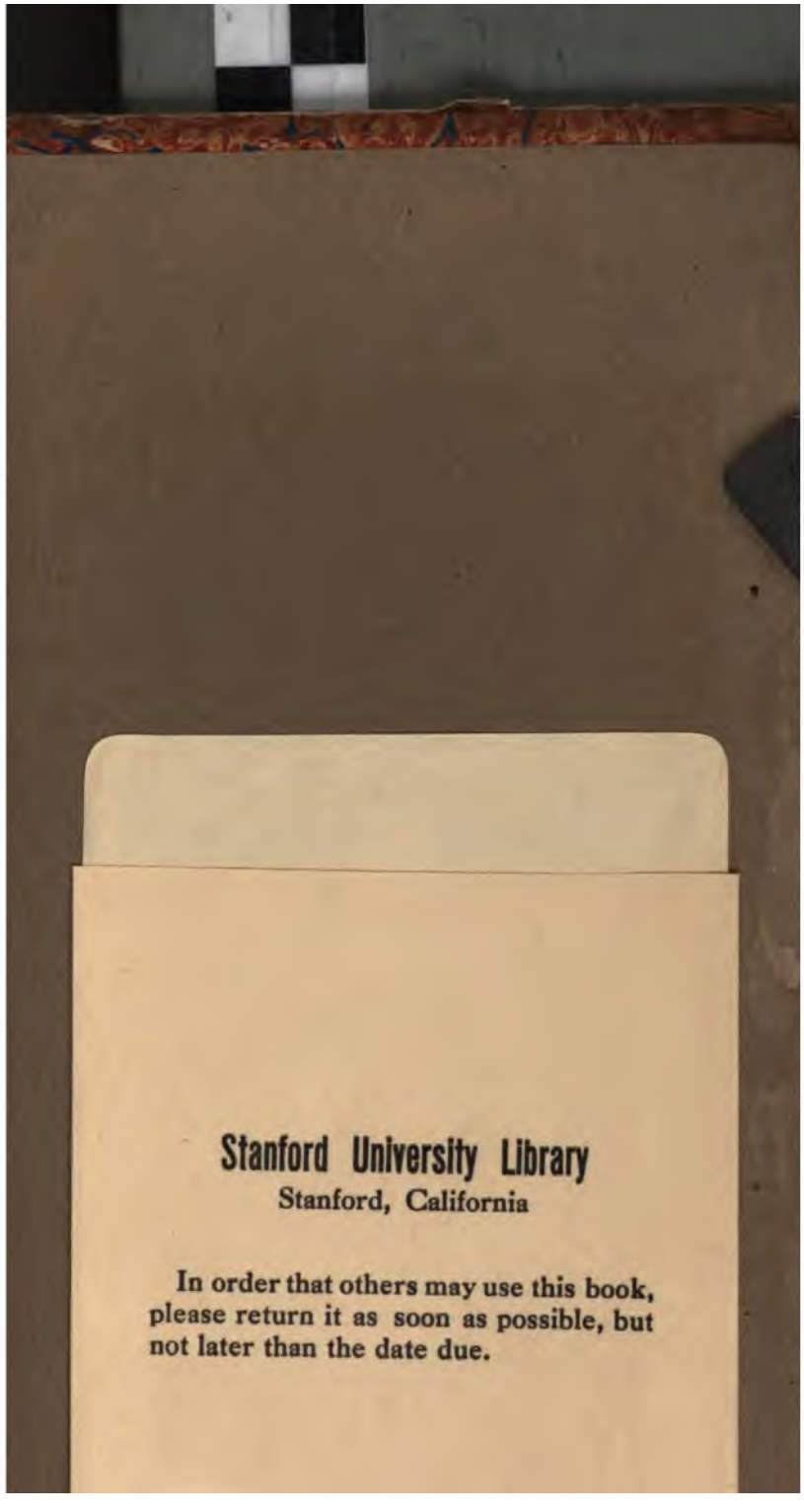
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